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FOR THE

## STUDENT OF BIRDS

### THEIR NESTS AND EGGS

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

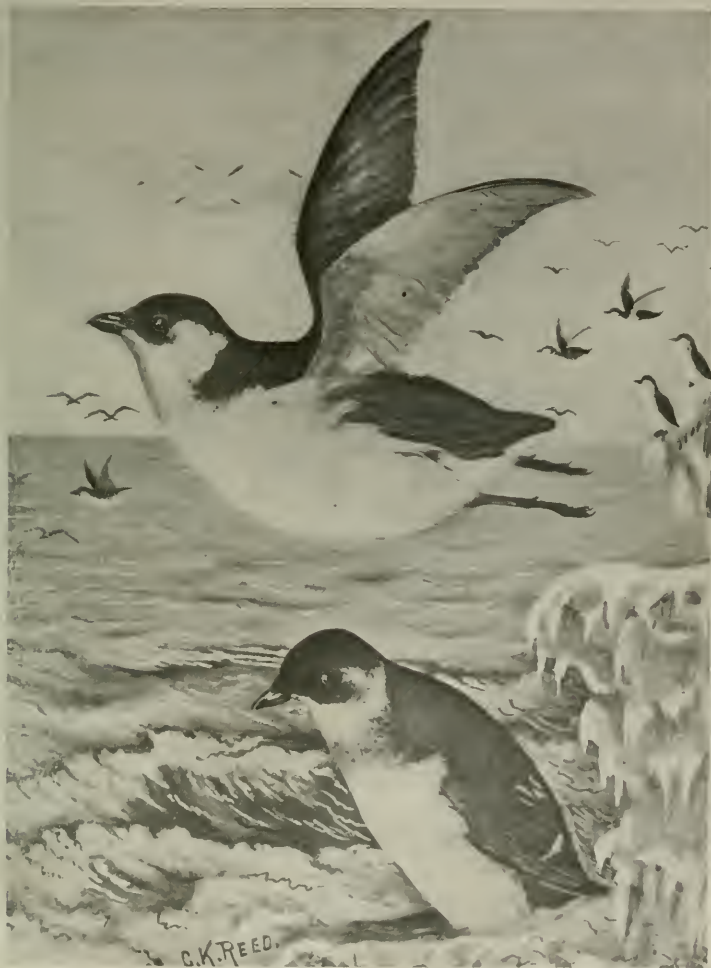
BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 393



## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

## BIRDS

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

FOR EXCHANGE—A large list of A1 North American species of skins for specimens needed in my collection. C. W. CHAMBERLAIN, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

EXCHANGE—Collection of North American Birds. Containing four hundred and twenty-three species and subspecies. Represented by thirteen hundred and sixty specimens. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

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WANTS SETS of 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-305-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYL, Maplewood, N. J.

WANTED for Cash—Any one or all complete vols. of the "Asprey." Please write price. B. S. GRIFFIN, 22 Currier Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

Would like to Exchange bird Migration notes with observer in western state, preferably Montana. A. S. WARTHIN, Ferda Road, Ann Arbor, Mich.

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FOR EXCHANGE—Reed's Bird Guide (Part I. Water Birds), Tree Guide, Flower Guide, Standard Library Nat. Hist., 5 vols., plates and hundreds of other Ills., Am. Ornithology (Wilson and Bonaparte), Bird Friends (Kear-ton), Bird Our Brother (Miller), Wonders of Bird World (Sharpe), Birdcraft (Wright), N. A. Wild Fowl (Elliot), Nests and Eggs (Davie), Worn Copy, Nuttalls Ornithology, 2 vols., many colored plates. What I Have Done With

## EGGS.

Birds (Porter), Auk vol. XXXI unbound, Birds of Conn. (Merriman), Birds of Penna. (Warren), Land and Game Birds of New Eng. (Minot), Pac. Coast Avifaunas Nos. 7 & 8. Want only the following: 30, 30a, 31, 31a, showy blue or green specimens only. Sets of any species of Gull or Tern, also sets of 417, 444, (461 with A-1 nest in situ), 552, (751 with A-1 nest in situ). PAUL G. HOWES LABORATORY, Stamford, Conn.

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

WANTED—Entire collection of Eggs of North American Birds for spot cash. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

FOR SALE—Complete sets and odd volumes of Nidologist, Osprey, Condor, Warbler and N. A. Fauna; Auk, VIII-XXVIII inclusive; Ridgway's "Manual", "Birds Mid. & North Am." complete, "The Hummingbirds"; Coues' "Ornithological Bibliography" complete, "Birds of Northwest", "Key" 4th Ed.; Turner's "Contributions Nat. Hist. Alaska"; Nelson's "Nat. Hist. Collections in Alaska"; Corwin Cruises in Alaska; Stejneger's "Explor. Commander Ids. & Kamchatka", "Poisonous Snakes of N. Am."; Allen's "Hist. N. Am. Pinnipeds", "Hist. Am. Bison"; Hornaday's "Extirmination of Am. Bison"; Bailey's "Handbook Birds West. U. S."; Cory's "Birds of Bahamas"; Bendire's "Life Histories N. Am. Birds"; Biological Survey Bulletins; National Museum Reports, Proceedings, and Bulletins; of N. Am., "Cretaceous Vertebrata"; Elliott's "Seal Ids." (including copy of very rare suppressed edition); Fern Bulletin Vols. VI to XIV; Dwight's "Our Feathered Game"; Minot's "Land and Game Birds New Eng."; Macoun's "Cat. Canadian Birds"; Marsh's "Dinocerata"; Stearns' "New England Bird Life"; Samuels' "Our North. & East. Birds"; Stone's "Birds New Jersey"; Warren's "Birds of Pennsylvania"; Knight's "Birds Wyoming"; many others, mostly rare and out of print. Address DR. T. W. RICHARDS, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Md.



# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 1

ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 393

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## AN OPEN LETTER

I do not believe that there is a collector in the United States who has been reading THE OÖLOGIST any length of time that wants to get away from it; there is no possible chance for any one interested in Birds and who has read the paper for twenty-five or thirty years that would give it up at any price. If you never collected another specimen you would always look forward to the coming of this little paper. In the November issue is a plea from the Editor for copy; a plea that is worthy of immediate help from each and every Oologist in the world.

There certainly cannot be a money consideration in this paper for the Editor, and each and every issue just "hammers it in" that it is more for the interests of the birds and the personal pleasure the Editor gets out of it that this paper is continued.

Now, collectors, it is up to the boys in the field to keep it going. Personally this writer is as far behind as any one in America, but I am going to turn around, send in mess (and it will doubtless stand up to the title) but you are going to get it, every issue if possible and at least several times a year.

If each and every one of us will send in copy, let the Editor be the judge of what he needs for the press, the balance to the waste basket, then we will help ourselves, the birds and show that we appreciate the efforts of this man in one of the best causes in the universe.

R. L. MORE.

Vernon. Texas.

### U. S. Collecting Permits for 1920.

We are in receipt of a letter from the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture containing information as to the Biological Survey Bureau's construction of the Regulations governing the issuance of collectors' permits for the taking of birds, nests and eggs for scientific purposes; in which the Bureau announces a construction that will meet with the approval of every well thinking friend of Ornithology and Oology, as well as every friend of conservation and of the birds.

It has been rumored abroad that the reins would be drawn tight and the application to be endorsed by two well known ornithologists would be given an unnecessarily strict construction, which would exclude the endorsement of many ornithologist because they might not be "well known." And also many would be applicants might not know or might not be known by two "well known" ornithologists and hence be unable to get the necessary endorsements.

We are very glad to announce that no such strained construction, is to be adopted. As a matter of fact the Bureau has adopted the reasonable and sensible view of the matter. In its communication to us under date of December 6, 1919 it says, "As a matter of fact, the Bureau accepts the indorsements of professors of Zoology in high schools, colleges or universities, when the facts are shown on the application, as readily as it does those of the most eminent ornithologists, and endeavors in every way possible to encourage the scientific study of wild life. No application for a scientific collecting permit is turned down until every effort has been made to enable the party to secure satisfactory indorsements, and so far as the Bureau is aware, there has not been

a single bona fide applicant to whom a Federal collecting permit has been denied."

This is as it should be and we are very glad of the stand of the Bureau in the matter, and likewise to be able to place it in the hands of our readers. There is one matter connected with this issuance of Federal permits, however, that we think could be improved on and that is this:

An applicant is required to state where he desires to collect and his permit usually confines him to one state. Many of the more advanced collectors have taken about all of the specimens in their own localities that they care for, except for unusual occurrences, and some of these prowl about more or less, often very far from home, and usually can take a day or two in a new locality to add a few things to the collection. One hates to become a lawbreaker under such conditions, specially when he has a permit to collect elsewhere. The U. S. permit should, we believe, cover the entire United States, and its tributories. No person who would be favored with such a permit, would be apt to abuse the same, we think, and we hope to see the regulations modified in this respect.

R. M. Barnes.

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### New Hampshire Notes.

The town (or as most people living west of New England would call it, the township) of Jaffery, New Hampshire, was for ten years the locality of my field trips for the observation of birds. But for the last two summers I have been able to be there for only a few weeks in the summer. In the last three years I have noticed that a change is occurring in the bird inhabitants of the region. The more Northern forms are becoming more abundant. In at least one case, that of the



E. F. Pope, Formerly of Colirnsneil, Texas, now of Albuquerque, N. Mex.

White Throated Sparrow, this is so noticeable that many persons not accustomed to notice birds have noticed it. This bird always breeds more or less sparingly in the town, but in the last three years, particularly in 1919, it has become so abundant as to be one of our most common breeding birds. The same is also true of the Junco. This species was always an abundant breeder on the mountains or higher hills, but it has gradually been extending its breeding range to the low lands as well. Another bird whose abundance was a noticeable feature of the 1919 season, was the Chestnut Sided Warbler. In almost any suitable locality at least one family of these birds could be found by means of a little searching.

On June 19th, I was searching a marshy meadow in quest of a pair of Short Billed Marsh Wrens that I had reason to believe had bred there for a number of years, when from a swampy tangle at one end of the meadow I hear the song of the Water Thrush. On following up the singer several good views of him were obtained. On later dates singing Water Thrushes were observed in a number of different swamps in the region, though all attempts to locate their nests were in vain. But as they remained all through the summer the probability is that they breed there. Until this season the Water Thrush has always been very rare or absent in the summer.

Another species that bred in Jaffery in somewhat unusual abundance in 1919, though it was always more or less common, was the Nashville Warbler. This bird is found most commonly in the higher parts of the town, and is particularly abundant in the region of spruce timber, near the summit of Mount Monadnock, which is 3166 feet in altitude. A common breeder at elevations below 2400 feet

on the mountain, and in parts of the lowlands was the Black Throated Blue Warbler. This is one of the first species to leave in the fall. It is not seen in its breeding ground after the middle of August and the latest date on which I have seen it in the lowlands is the 30th of August.

A few pairs of the Golden Crowned Kinglets were also breeding on Monadnock in 1919 as usual.

The season was also marked by the absence of breeding Loons, Grebs, and Ducks, which were usually found in the ponds and marshes, but there was enough increase in land forms to make up for any loss in that way.

Stuart T. Danforth,  
New Brunswick, N. Y.

#### The Starling In N. H.

I know of three different times where the Starling has driven the Flicker from her nesting site. No. 1, the Flicker had her nest completed in an apple tree when the Starling took possession and made her nest, and laid five eggs. No. 2, the Flicker had her three eggs robbed by something, probably the Starling in another apple tree. Later on a Starling made her nest and hatched her eggs in the same cavity. No. 3, a Flicker had a nest and laid seven eggs in the cavity of another apple tree and just as the eggs were taken by a boy, Mrs. Starling took and invaded a nest just as I left for home.

This is what happened in only three seasons. I think the Starling must be a great pest to the Flicker.

E. S. Coombs.

#### Long Eared Owls.

On December the 28th, 1919, while walking up a small ravine close to my camps here on the lake, my attention was attracted by a large Owl flying up, seemingly from the bare



ground under a small oak tree. Going over towards the tree to investigate to see if I could find out what he was doing there, I was more surprised to flush four more from the same spot. The birds took wing and soon settled on the limb of a large dead oak tree, all in line with their backs to me, coming closer one turned only his head in my direction but soon seemed to be excited for in a moment two long ears came into view, then as if ordered they all faced about and showed their ears in succession and bid me a fond farewell.

These are the first notes of the migration of the Long Eared Owls I have taken or heard of from this section of the country.

Geo. E. Maxon.

Ft. Worth, Texas.

Mr. Maxon was recently instrumental in assisting in the seizure of \$500.00 worth of Aigrettes by the U. S. Game Warden's at Ft. Worth.

Editor.

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#### Some Notes on Winter Birds Around Chicago, Illinois.

By Colin Campbell Sanborn.

On November 30, 1919, Mr. H. L. made a trip to Beach, Ill., which is in the extreme northeast corner of the state, on Lake Michigan. The trip was made to collect some winter birds as Mr. Charles Douglas of Waukegan had reported seeing large numbers of Bohemian Waxwings and White-winged Crossbills there.

The day was stormy with a strong north wind, but we found Bohemians in large numbers and must have seen about 1500 during the day. We arrived there at 7 a. m. and until noon, every few minutes flocks of fifty to sixty birds passed over. The birds were very nervous and kept flying south, only two or three flocks stopped to feed on the juniper berries, and

then were very hard to approach. Shooting seemed to bewilder them and for some time they would only fly a short distance when suddenly, coming to their senses they would rise and whirl away to the south. They followed the lake in their flight and none were seen more than a quarter of a mile from the lake.

A few American Crossbills were seen, but no White-wings. Also the remains of a Pigeon Hawk were found and one Short-eared Owl was seen besides the other common winter birds.

In Highland Park, Ill., a few miles south of Beach, during the following week a flock of about twenty Bohemians stayed for three or four days to feed on the berries of a mountain ash tree, at which time they were very tame, also numerous flocks have been reported from Jackson Park in Chicago. I have not heard of any in the Sand Dunes in Indiana but believe that they could be found there. The only other record I have for the White-winged Crossbills, is a pair taken by Mr. L. L. Walters of the Field Museum, in the Sand Dunes.

There seems to be a large flight of Bohemian Waxwings this year and we would like to hear where other readers have seen them, and when they saw the last ones. Mr. Henry K. Coale of Highland Park, Ill., says that these are the first ones he has seen around Chicago since 1909.

Colin Campbell Sanborn.

---

#### A Beautiful Sight.

On the evening of October thirty-first, I decided to take a spin down the lake. I motored south, then east for eight miles, seeing but little bird life. The wind was blowing from the south and the waves were choppy. A few clouds scattered through the sky. Then as the sun began to get low and go behind the clouds, I said I better

start back, because when the sun does not set clear in these parts, nine times out of ten, we will have bad weather soon. They say any one that predicts weather in Texas is a new comer or a fool..

It was warm and comfortable before I got half way back to camp. I looked in the north and a dark blue cloud was rising. And in direct line from the northern sky, bunch after bunch of Gulls of all description. Then Canada geese could be seen flying high and low, circling over the lake, a bunch lilting now and then. Next I glanced up and large bunches of ducks of all description were coming in a direct line from the north. All settling in different parts of the lake. Water birds galore were observed all through the northern sky, and were settling in different parts of the lake. ting dark, but I stopped long enough to take down the notes on the birds as they arrived. They were all tired out from the long flight and did not hesitate to light. I said to myself, look out for a stiff norther for the first day of November. At this date thousands of water birds peacefully settled on old Lake Worth's choppy waters. The wind ceased to blow from the south and before I docked at Williams Spring landing the north wind began to whip the waves back to the south. And by morning it was good and cold. This was one night that the birds will get a peaceful nights rest and be ready to take to the air in the morning. They came in so late that the hunters did not have time to disturb them. To see so many birds coming out of the clouds seemed like a dream, and to my knowledge this is the most beautiful sight I ever witnessed.

Ramon Graham,  
Texas, 1919.

### To California.

Ye editor and his wife hied themselves to the Golden Gate State via Sante Fe R. R., leaving Dec. 7th, and the editor returned Dec. 31st. The object of the trip being to help celebrate the 86th birthday of the best mother in all the world, and in the new home of our sister, Mrs. Stith in Hollywood. Leaving Lacon with everything frozen up and real winter in vogue, we ran into a tremendous blizzard in Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado. The mercury was 26 below zero in Trinidad the evening before we reached there. Snow and winter prevailed substantially all the way. Very few birds were seen, a few Horned Larks, some Winter Sparrows, Crows and a few Magpies and Ravens and but two Hawks, were seen prior to reaching the western slope of the San Barnideno Mountains.

The usual winter birds for the region were in evidence about Los Angeles, Hollywood, Pasadena, Riverside, Arcadia and Longbeach. We saw nothing unusual. One of the pleasantest experiences of the trip was the privilege of attending the December meeting of the Cooper Club, where we renewed acquaintance with the members and made some new acquaintances. The club appears to be in a flourishing condition. One of the interesting things of the evening to the writer being the report of a Whistling Swan hanging in a nearby market for sale. We were a little surprised not to see a committee appointed at once to ferret the matter out, and to take steps to prosecute the killer and the dealer both. Unless such offenders are promptly and vigorously dealt with the Whistling Swan will follow the Noble Trumpter Swan into complete extinction.

On the way home we came by the

way of Beale, cut off through the Texas pan handle, western Oklahoma and Southern Kansas and saw no snow or cold weather all the way, and but few birds, though the smaller ground birds seemed far more plentiful in Texas and Oklahoma than in Kansas and Colorado on the way out. The thing that impressed us all the way on this 4500 mile trip, as far as more than one sixth the way around the world was the extremely scarcity of birds of prey. Though constantly on the lookout during daylight hours for them, we saw less than a dozen on the entire trip. Truly the long range rifle is doing its work!

The Editor.

#### Oological Comment.

One shrinks, really, from appearing to put himself forward, in a critical way, as regards bird matters. And yet there are often items coming into print that require some modification or explanation. In the October issue of *The Oologist* are three such matters. I beg to make brief suggestions in regard to these:

E. G. Alexander lists the "Long-tailed" Chickadee as found at "Lexington, Missouri." Of course, Missouri is quite out of the range of this Chickadee.

A set of eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk is listed as found by W. C. Wood; and is described as being "the largest (this collector) ever found." In point of fact, the dimensions given fall well within the listed extremes.

Another observer speaks of the Golden-cheeked Warbler as breeding in Arizona. This region differs so radically from the plant associations maintaining in the reputed range, "Parts of Central and Southern Texas," that one is gravely in doubt as to the alleged occurrence. Only the fact of specimens having been taken, during

the breeding season, could give substantial color and authenticity to the alleged occurrences.

P. B. Peabody,  
Blue Rapids, Kansas.

#### The Lark Bunting.

(*Calamospiza melanocoris* Stejneger)

The Lark Buntings are peculiar birds; peculiar in their habits, in their size and color among the sparrows, and in their structure. Dr. Coues in his "Key to North American Birds" says: "A well marked genus, with wing-structure reminding one of *Anthus* or *Aulada*," and "There is a curious analogy of not affinity of this genus to some of the *Icteridae*." "In form of bill this interesting species is closely allied to Grosbeaks; and this with the singularly enlarged secondaries, as long as the primaries in the closed wing, renders it unmistakable in any plumage."

They are strictly ground birds, abundant on the uncultivated plains of the West. During the early part of the summer they sing much and are elegant songsters. Much of the singing is done on the wing. They mount upward for a short distance—twenty-five to forty feet—singing as they rise, float for a few minutes at the summit of their flight, and continue to sing for a part of the descent. Usually a number nest in proximity to each other, and at times fill the air with song. Their note is peculiar and can be distinguished as far as it can be heard. This habit of soaring and singing give them the name of Lark Bunting.

They did not become known in scientific ornithology until discovered by Thomas Nuttall and J. K. Townsend in the spring of 1834, when these two men of science journeyed together across the continent to the Pacific in Capt. Wyeth's party. The discovery

must have been made not far from the 20th of May, for at this time the party was making its journey through the Platte country, and the birds had not been many days in their summer home. Mr. Townsend published his description in 1837, and said they "inhabit a portion of the Platte country, east of the first range of the Rocky Mountains." His scientific name was *fringilla bicolor*.

As Mr. Townsend wrote in his "Narrative" they are strictly ground birds, and they are unable to adapt their mode of life to a country made into farms and under cultivation, and they have almost entirely disappeared from the agricultural country. For a time some of them tried nesting in the alfalfa fields. At the time the birds arrive from the South the alfalfa is growing, and the fields look like a suitable place to nest; but by the time the nest is made and the eggs laid, the fields are flooded for irrigation, or the mower and hay rake pass over the fields.

The sexes are decidedly unlike in their summer plumage. The male is black with a large white patch on the wing; the female more resembling a sparrow, mostly grayish brown, but with a white wing-patch, and this white wing-patch is a distinctive mark in any part of the season. When they arrive in north-eastern Colorado about the tenth of May, the males are in this summer or breeding plumage. To quote again from Dr. Coues: "The male wears the black plumage only during the breeding season, like the Bobolink; when changing the characters of the two sexes are confused. The change of the adult male from a winter plumage resembling that of the female to the full breeding dress is accomplished by aptosochromatism—that is without moulting; for the black comes to the surface by the

wearing away of light tips and edgings of the feathers, as in the Bobolink."

Geo. E. Osterhout,  
Windsor, Colo.

#### The Oologists' Exchange and Mart.

We are very pleased to note the progress made by our British contemporary, the O. E. and M., founded by friend Skinner last June. Its new year commences with the January number and the subscription is \$1.25 which includes one free advt. of 25 words.

Mr. Skinner seems to have enlisted most of the best men on this side as well as in Britain with not a few in the British Dominions overseas and the European continent. The paper is being conducted on very sound lines and we can heartily recommend it to any collector desiring relations with other countries. No dealers are admitted to its subscription list and those who wish to subscribe must be proposed by some existing subscriber. Mr. Skinner points to the fact that no less than eight of our new list committee are subscribers so that any of our readers wishing to get on the subscription list should be able to secure the necessary nomination.

We all like to get our bird papers from No. 1 and we understand that the back numbers for 1919 can still be had for \$1.00 though the supply is limited.

Subscriptions can be remitted in dollar bills with one cent stamps to make up the odd amount.

R. M. Barnes.

#### The Ornithology of Chester Co., Pa.

By F. L. Burns, 1919.

This splendid little volume of 122 pages is typical of Frank L. Burns, its author in its thoroughness. Everything Burns publishes is accurate, thorough and reliable: witness his



papers on the Broadwing Hawk, and his review of the publications of Alexander Wilson in the *Wilson Bulletin*, as well as his "Bibliography of Rare and Unusual Publications" in the *Oologist* July, 1919.

The present volume is divided into three parts. Part one being a description of the physical features of Chester County, Biographical notes and an extensive review of the published faunal lists relating to that County. Part II is an annotated list of the birds of the county giving 247 species and a hypothetical list of 16 species. Part III is a Bibliography of the faunal lists of the Country and some notes.

This publication is without doubt the best list extant on the birds of Chester County and the author is to be congratulated on bringing to completion this work which will for years be so useful to students of the birds of that county.

Editor.

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**William Brewster.**

By the death of William Brewster, American Ornithology loses its leader. No one can deny but that this quiet, unassuming, wealthy gentlemen of leisure was at the front of our scientific bird students when he passed on. As with all ornithologists of note he began by "making a collection of birds' eggs." Wm. H. Dana of Harvard, (class of 1874) in which Brewster also finished his school year furnishes this information in an article in *The Harvard Graduates Magazine* for September, 1919. Collecting birds' eggs as a beginning has produced many great naturalists in the end.

Editor.

---

**Our Place To Rest.**

J M. Welch, a wealthy citizen of Rock Island, Ill., has recently pur-

chased Scheck Island, six miles south of there in the Mississippi River, containing 315 acres and will convert the same into a game and bird sanctuary where all bird shooting and hunting and trapping will be for all time prohibited. Good!

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#### **Turkey Vultures Feeding.**

On March 2, 1917, near Daytona, Florida, I was fortunate in seeing the Turkey Vultures come upon a newly killed pig. It was a young animal, a foot and a half long, which lay in the road, having evidently been struck by a passing automobile. I drew up a short distance away and watched the birds approach. The first bird sailed gracefully over, then, skimming low over the roadway, alighted gracefully, with head held high and tail well raised from the ground. With all his ugliness, the bird looked proud and dignified. He stepped, almost waddled, to the pig, took his stand upon the forequarters and, reaching down deftly extracted the eye from its socket. All his movements were slow and deliberate; he attacked his prey with all the precision of a true artist.

Meanwhile two or three other Vultures either sailed overhead or walked near, eyeing the food, but not venturing to come within reach of the feeding bird. If they stepped too near, the bird standing on the pig looked up threateningly.

The point next attacked was not the abdomen (as I had expected), but the region just over the shoulder-blade. In ten minutes, during which time the birds had been driven into the air twice by passing automobiles, most of the spine of the scapula was exposed, and during this period only one bird had been at work at a time. We found another pig not far away on the beach. In this animal also the scapula was denuded and the abdomen still un-



Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, Adult, Male, Scolding. Life Sketch.  
—By Geo. W. Sutton.

opened. When we left, seven Vultures were sailing overhead.

Winsor M. Tyler, M. D.  
Lexington, Mass.

#### George M. Sutton.

With this issue we begin the publication of a series of plates made from drawings by our friend, Geo. M. Sutton, of the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh. It is our prediction that in a few short years he will be at the front of American bird artists. Study these illustrations carefully and see if we are not justified in this prophesy.

#### Photo Craft.

Published at No. 2 Nickels Arcade, Ann Arbor, Mich., is one of the very best photographic magazines we know of. It makes a specialty of nature photography and is of much use of those who desire to follow that branch of art.

#### E. E. Pope.

With this issue we present a fine likeness of E. E. Pope, one of the very best of American leading oologists. Mr. Pope was formerly at Colinsneel, Texas, and he is now at Albuquerque, N. Mexico. No oologist known to us excels him in accuracy or painstaking preparation of specimens. He is a member of the committee of twenty-five in charge of the new eggs price list.

#### The New Price List.

The new price list of North American Birds Eggs moves ahead slowly. The committee of twenty-five in charge of the matter of prices has organized with Dr. R. B. Bales of Circleville, Ohio, chairman and Rev. H. E. Wheeler, of Fayetteville, Ark., Secretary. The members of the committee are engaged in arranging matters by inter-correspondence but it is quite doubtful

if the catalogue can be completed in time to be used before July first.

Editor.

#### Everybody Late.

It is a matter of extreme regret on our part that the January number was late. We sent the copy to the printer in November in time to get it out as we thought December 1st. However, when such publications as the "Pictorial Review," with over a million subscribers is compelled to issue a double January-February number and "The Literary Digest" must issue its number without type, it is no wonder our little Oologist was caught in the malstrom of labor troubles. We hope soon, however, to be caught up with schedule time and will do all we can to be out on the first of each month.

#### O. W. Emerson.

Professor Emerson of Berkeley, Calif., one of the nestors of North American Oologist and one of the most loved of all the many California Oologists has recently been engaged in taking moving pictures of birds at Oakland, Calif. We are glad to note that he is still active in the science.

#### Story County, Iowa Birds.

A list of birds observed near Nevada, Story County, Iowa during 1919.

54. Ringbilled Gull. Eight flying north over ploughed field May 8th.

77. Black Tern. A flock of about fifty flying northward. May 6.

132. Mallard. At different times from March 28th to May 2nd; again in fall in large numbers from Oct. 11 to Nov. 16th.

139. Green-winged Teal. March 18-20-21-23-24 and April 2nd, and Oct. 25 and 26th.

172. Canada Goose. Several V



Wild Fowl at Home. June 9, 1919.

—Photo by V. Lane.

shaped flocks seen from Mar. 28th to April 3rd.

190. Am. Bittern. One seen along West Indian Creek May 8th.

191. Least Bittern. Two seen in grass in edge of pond June 7th.

194. Great Blue Heron. One seen along creek Sept. 4th.

201. Green Heron. A number seen at different times from April 11th to Sept. 8th.

214. Sora Rail. One observed in pond June 10th.

221. Am. Coot. One seen along creek May 9th.

273. Kildeer. Common from Mar. 15th to Oct. 5th.

289. Bob-white. A few were observed along a hedge at different times throughout the summer,

305. Prairie Hen. Three seen Oct. 5th.

316. Mourning Dove. Common.

331. Marsh Haw' Fairly common.

333. Coopers Hawk. Formerly common now becoming rare. One set of three taken this season.

337. Red-tailed Hawk. Common.

360. Am. Sparrow Hawk. Fairly common.

373. Screech Owl. Common.

375. Great Horned Owl. Rare one seen June 7th.

387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common.

388. Black-billed Cuckoo. Two observed this season. Not so common as the Yellow-billed.

390. Belted Kingfisher. Common,



393. Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common.
- 394c. Northern Downy Woodpecker. Common.
406. Red-headed Woodpecker. Common.
- 421a. Northern Flicker. Common.
417. Whip-poor-will. A few observed this season. Becoming rare.
420. Nighthawk. Rare.
423. Chimney Swift.
428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common.
444. Kingbird. Common.
452. Crested Flycatcher. Fairly common.
456. Phoebe. Common.
461. Wood Pewee. Fairly common.
466. Traill's Flycatcher. Fairly common.
467. Least Flycatcher. One observed on May 9th.
- 474b. Prairie Horned Lark. Common throughout the year.
477. Blue Jay. Common.
488. Am. Crow. Very abundant.
494. Bobolink. Common.
495. Cowbird. Common.
497. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Rare.
501. Meadowlark. Common.
506. Orchard Oriole. Fairly common.
507. Baltimore Oriole. Common.
509. Rusty Blackbird. Common migrant.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle. Common.
517. Purple Finch. Rare migrant. Three seen on Dec. 16th.
529. Am. Goldfinch. Common.
534. Snowflake. A few observed in late December.
540. Vesper Sparrow. Common.
546. Grasshopper Sparrow. Common.
552. Lark Sparrow. Formerly abundant, now rare.
563. Field Sparrow. Common.
567. Slate-colored Junco. Common migrant.
587. Towhee. Formerly common, becoming rare.
595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Fairly common.
604. Dickcissel. Very abundant.
598. Indigo Bunting. Common.
608. Scarlet Tanager. Fairly common.
611. Purple Martin. Common.
612. Cliff Swallow. Rare breeder.
613. Barn Swallow. Common.
616. Bank Swallow. Common. abundant nesting species in this locality.
617. Rough-winged Swallow. Common.
618. Bohemian Waxwing. Rare migrant. One observed Dec. 18th.
619. Cedar Waxwing. Common in winter. Rare in summer.
- 622a. White-rumped Shrike. Common.
624. Red-eyed Vireo. Fairly common.
627. Warbling Vireo. Not so common as the Red-eyed Vireo.
636. Black and White Warbler. Fairly common migrant.
652. Yellow Warbler. Fairly common. Formerly abundant.
655. Myrtle Warbler. Abundant during migration in spring and fall.
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler. Rare migrant formerly abundant.
687. Am. Redstart. Fairly common during the migration season.
704. Catbird. Common.
705. Brown Thrasher. Common.
721. House Wren. Common.
727. White-breasted Nuthatch. Common throughout the year.
735. Chickadee. Common.
755. Wood Thrush. Fairly common.
761. Am. Robin. Abundant.
766. Bluebird. Common.

John Cole,  
Nevada, Iowa.

Jan. 1, 1920.

## MAGAZINES WANTED

I will pay the highest prices for any one of the following back numbers of these publications. If you have any of them write me at once.

R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**Agassiz Bulletin**, Buffalo, N. Y., 1885. All except Vol. I, No. 5.

**The A. A. Bulletin**, Gilman, Ill., 1890, Vol. I, No. 3.

**The Agassiz Record**, Oskaloosa, Ia., 1888, Vol. I, Nos. 3 and 4.

**American Magazine of Natural Science**, 1892-3, Vol. I, Nos. 4 and 6; Vol. II, No. 1.

**The Agassiz Companion**, Wyondotte Ks., 1886, Vol. I, all but No. 2; Vol. II, all but 3-5-6-10; Vol. III, all but 1-5-10-11-12.

**Amateur Naturalist**, Ashland, Maine, 1903-6, Vol. I, all; Vol. II, all; Vol. III, all except Nos. 1 and 4.

**Bear Hill Advertiser**, Stoneham, Mass., 1903, Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 3, and all after No. 4.

**American Osprey**, Ashland, Ky., 1890, Vol. I, No. 6.

**The Buckeye State Collector**, Portsmouth, O., 1888, Vol. I, Nos. 4 and 6.

**Bulletin of the Oologists Assn.**, Omaha, Nebr., 1897. All except No. I, Vol. 1.

**California Traveller and Scientists**, 1891-2, Vol. I, all except No. 5; Vol. II, all except No. 3 and all later issues.

**The Collector**, West Chester, Pa., 1891, Vol. I, all; Vol. II, all except Nos. 1-2-3.

**The Collector**, Des Moines, 1882, Vol. II, all except Nos. 6-7-8.

**Collectors Journal**, Fayetteville, Ia., 1901, Vol. I, all except No. 2.

**The Collectors Monthly**, Newburg, N. Y., 1893, Vol. I, Nos. 2-3-4.

**Collectors Notebook**, Camden, N. Y., 1903-4, Vol. I, all; Vol. II, all except Nos. 2 and 6.

**The Curio**, Benson, Maine, Vols. I, II, III, IV, VI.

**Collectors Monthly**, Philadelphia, Pa., 1888. All except Vol. I, No. 1.

**The Collectors Monthly**, Oakland, Calif., 1911. All published except Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of Vol. I.

**The Curio Exchange**, New Kamilche, Wash., 1901-2, Vol. I, No. 4 and Vol. II, 3 and all after.

**Empire State Exchange**, Water Valley, N. Y., 1889, Vol. I, all except Nos. 1-5-10; Vol. II, all except Nos. 1 and 2; Vol. III, all except Nos. 2-3-4; Vol. IV, all except 1-2-3-4.

**The Exchange**, Quendota, Ill., 1889, Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 4.

**The Exchange**, Adrian, Mich., 1885, Vol. I, Nos. 1-2-4-5.

**The Exchangers Monthly**, Vol. IV, complete, 1888.

**Exchanger and Collector and Exchangers Aid**, 1885, Canaijohorie, N. Y., all except Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 2.

**Forest and Field**, Gilterville, N. Y., 1892, all except Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 5.

**Golden State Scientist**, Riverside, Calif., 1886, Vol. I, No. 1. The Suppressed copy.

**The Guide to Nature Study and Nature Literature**, Stanford, Conn., Vol. I, No. 12; Vol. II, all after No. 7; Vol. III, IV, V; Vol. IV, Nos. 1 to 8 and No. 10. Also issues of March, Nov. and Dec. 1909 and from Jan. 1910 to Dec. 1913, inclusive and March 1914 and July 1915 to Jan. 1916 inclusive.

**The Hummer**, Nebraska City, Neb., 1899-1900, Vol. I, Nos. 3 and 4.

**Iowa Ornithologist**, Salem, Ia., 1895-7, Vol. IV, No. 3.

**Kansas City Naturalist**, Kansas City, Mo., 1886-91, Vol. 5, No. 10.

**The Kansas Naturalist**, Topeka, Ks., 1902, Vol. I, all except No. 2.

**The Maine O. and O.**, Garland, Me., 1890-1, Vol. I, Nos. 5-6-7-12; Vol. II, No. 1.

**The Naturalist**, Kansas City, Mo., 1890, Vols. I, II, III and Vol. IV except Nos. 6-8 and 10.

**The Natural History Collectors Monthly**, 1893, Vol. I, except Nos. 1-2-3-4.

**The Naturalists Companion**, Branchport, N. Y., 1885, Vol. I, No. 1.

**The Naturalists Journal**, Frankfort, and Phila., Pa., 1884, Vol. I, Nos. 4 and 7; Vol. II, Nos. 1-2-3-4.

**Nature Study Review**, Chicago, Ill., All issues prior to No. 45; also Nos. 46, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 72, 74, 93, 94 and 117.

**The Observer**, 1889-1917, Vol. I, all except Nos. 1-2-3-6; Vol. II, all except No. 3; Vol. III, all except Nos. 2-45-6-7; Vol. IV, all except Nos. 2-3; Vol. V, Nos. 6-8-9-10-12; Vol. VI, Nos. 2-7-10-12; Vol. VII, Nos. 10-12; Vol. VIII, all except No. 4.

Ohio Naturalist, Ohio State University, 1889-1895, Vols. I-II-III and Vol. IV, No. 5 and all later issues.

The Old Curiosity Shop, Vol. IX, No. 6.

The Oologist and Botanist, Des Moines, Ia., Vol. II, Nos. 3-4-5.

The Oologist Advertiser, Danilsville, Conn., 1889-90, Vol. I, No. 1.

The Ornithologist, Twin Bluffs, Wis., 1885, Vol. 1, No. 1.

The Oregon Naturalist, Eugene, Ore., 1891, Vol. II, No. 7.

The Owl, Glenn Falls, N. Y., 1885-6, Vol. I, all; Vol. II, all except Nos. 1 and 2; Vol. III, all except No. 2.

The Stormy Petrel, Quendota, Ill., 1890, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 6

The Taxidermist, Hyde Park, Mass., 1907-14, all after Vol. II, No. 7.

The Valley Naturalist, St. Louis, No. 1878, all except Vol. I, No. 1.

The Weekly Oologist and Philatelist, all published except Vol. I, No. 2 and Vol. II, No. 2.

The Western Naturalist, Topeka, Ks., 1903, all issues except Vol. I, No. 1.

The Western Naturalist, Quadison, Wis., 1887-8, Vol. I, Nos. 7-9-10; Vol. II, Nos. 1-5-6.

The West American Scientist, San Diego, Calif., 1885 to 1902, Vol. I, all except Nos. 5-9-11; Vol. II, all except Nos. 15-21; Vol. III, all except Nos. 27-31; Vol. IV, all except Nos. 43-47-53; Vol. VI, Nos. 61. Vol. VIII, 66-68-69-70-71-72-73 and all after No. 139 except No. 158.

The Wisconsin Naturalist, Milwaukee, Wis., Vol. I, all except Nos. 5-6; All of Vols. II-III-IV and V; all of Vol. VI except No. 1; all of Vol. VII except Nos. 77 and 78; all of Vol. VIII except Nos. 79-81-82; all of Vol. IX except Nos. 87-88-89-90.

The Young Collector, Des Moines, Ia., 1881-2, all issues except Vol. I, No. 41; and Vol. II, Nos. 1-2-3.

The Young Naturalist, Galesburgh, Ill., 1884, Vol. I, all except Nos. 1-4-5.

The Young Ornithologist, Boston, Mass., 1885, Vol. I, No. 10.

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*THE NEW CATALOGUE*

The work on the new price list moves slowly. The committee of twenty-five, named by the Oologists of the country, now have the work in hand and we hope to receive the results of their labors in time to publish the volume so it will be available for 1920 exchanges. It is, however, a long laborious road this committee has to travel and we are sure they will do thorough work before submitting it for publication.

—R. M. BARNES.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 394



## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

### BIRDS

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FOR EXCHANGE—Reed's Bird Guide (Part I, Water Birds), Tree Guide, Flower Guide, Standard Library Nat. Hist., 5 vols., plates and hundreds of other Ills., Am. Ornithology (Wilson and Bonaparte), Bird Friends (Kearton), Bird Our Brother (Miller), Wonders of Bird World (Sharpe), Birdcraft (Wright), N. A. Wild Fowl (Elliott), Nests and Eggs (Davie), Worn Copy. Nuttall's Ornithology, 2 vols., many colored plates. What I Have Done With

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 2

ALBION, N. Y., FEB. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 394

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

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Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## ANOTHER OPEN LETTER

Hon. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

If my vocabulary were as well supplied with fine words as is that of a lawyer I would show you a fancy stunt right here and now. But, on account of my being short along the line of pretty speech, I shall have to stick to the plainest kind of English and it is wholly inadequate to express the things that ought to be said. I wish I could put on paper my real estimate of THE OÖLOGIST of today as compared with THE OÖLOGIST of some thirty-one years ago—the time when I began to read it. Sometimes now that early publication with egg-drills, blowpipes, embryo-hooks, etc., bristling from almost every square inch crowds itself into my dreams. But, presto! begone! here comes the December number! What was a torturing nightmare has become a happy dream realized. Yes, that which a year or two ago we scarcely dared hope could ever become a permanent part of THE OÖLOGIST seems to be here to stay. Artistic front cover, high grade of paper, plain clear-cut type, and wonderful half-tones scattered all through—here they are at no extra expense to the readers. But—somebody pays the bill. Those half-tones in this one number are worth more than the subscription price. I wonder whether your subscribers have appreciated what you have been doing for us. I wish this child could help you carry out the kind of program that you seem to have in mind. If I only knew enough about birds so that notes of any worth might be made from my observations you might depend on me for several columns of copy. But—yes, but.

I certainly wish you success in your worthy undertaking.

Cordially yours,

Toulon, Ill.

W. F. NICHOLSON.

### Paraphernalia Points.

The most important phase of collecting is to be methodical and systematic and to proceed well prepared for all contingencies. Much time may be saved, many a slip avoided by being well heeled as to the necessary and tabooing the unnecessary in the field. In a back number of the Condor the fortunate collector who took the nest and sets of the Western Evening Grosbeak, mentions a device of Mr. Chas. Littlejohn's for collecting sets in inaccessible locations and a packing box—such accessories would be indeed interesting, and would be of much aid to the average collector, and it is to be hoped that the inventor will let his brethern of the oological field have some idea about the contraptions by giving the Condor or the Oologist readers an account and that the editors will transmit the request. There should be a mutual interest and certainly a mutual benefit in the exchange of new notions and novel points of collecting outfits and original methods of field and useful tricks. Half the difficulty in collecting the rare sets lies in locating the nests, then comes the rub of landing the prize and next the caring of what is required.

The best method of locating nests is undoubtedly in watching the parent birds where they are feeding or singing. If it is the breeding season the nest usually is not far from the birds, though they sometimes wander far from the nest. What has been termed the "Singing Tree" as mentioned in the Auk under that title sometime ago, seems to be an important item. The birds haunt certain radius, usually a short one, and in the nearby trees, the collector may accustom himself to the spot and learn the average distance that the nest is likely to be at, from such a given point, as the singing tree, there the birds accustom themselves

and frequent, and sing a while away from the nearby nest. How often does it happen that a collector goes into a field not well prepared and finds exactly what he does not expect to find in the way of rarity but has to forego securing it because of some outfit. On the other hand what a pleasure it is to feel fully prepared and find that the outfit fits exactly with the conditions encountered. I have never seen a list of what might be termed a complete oological outfit and the various lists noted were incomplete or suited to special conditions or environment.

Hornady gives admirable lists on his year in the Jungles and Methods. Davis gives lists in his Taxidermy; Chapman also mentions the desirable in his directories, and others likewise but while these include many useful articles there is a lack of completeness. Of course much depends on the nature of the country one expects to negotiate, and the length of time and the means of transportation, and the species of game. Also whether one may have to depend on the country for accommodations or whether one takes a camp outfit along. The best single item in the collector's outfit apart from the gun is a burro. They are sure footed, enduring, good-natured, and can always go anywhere you would go yourself. Of course the first essential of the field is the gun itself. The old reliable 12 is best but if I were to have the choice of a single barrel I would choose a 22 rifle and take plenty of dust shot shells. There is a 22 shot shell now on market and these are excellent where a shorter range is desired. I have not seen enough to talk about the 22 dust shot cartridge. The 32 auxiliary is the one that I prefer. I have killed birds as large as bittern with it and in the Great Dismal Swamp where all the



collecting was short range, I used a 32 long dust shot cartridge, which I loaded myself with E. C. and Ballestite powder, and an auxiliary barrel fitted in a Parker double barrel 28 gauge shot gun. The 28 gauge worked perfectly. It was light and effective and the shells of a day's supply felt like so many peanuts in the pocket as compared with the heavy 12 gauge shells. Still for all round work I would choose a Parker 12 and 32 auxiliary in one barrel at least. The Colts revolver described in a back number of the Condor is a good thing and such contribution are certainly helpful to the collector.

In the nature of shot, half of the skins of today are made from badly shot up specimens. Care should be taken not to put too many shots in a bird and mangle it. After the bird is in the hand it should be cared for gently so as not to muss the feathers. Several English collectors string up the birds through the nostrils but this causes stretching of specimens. A paper cone is a good thing. One may carry a supply of square cut sheets in the hunting coat and make cones of them as the occasion demands. The way a bird is wrapped after the skin is made, during the drying process, is important.

A thin layer of absorbent cotton should be smoothed out, just the right size and thinness and laid smoothly on a smooth surface.

The bird should then be placed on it breast forward and the cotton brought over from each side from the corners alternately, the bird being wrapped tightly and the surplus ends torn away. It is best to insert the bill through the cotton and bring the cotton straight over the crown and head to the nape. Have the cotton so thin that the color of the bird is faintly preceptible. This is the method adopt-

ed by the experts. Cotton plugs for the field should be carried in supply and made the right size for throat and wound plugging. Cornmeal should be used in the field and a supply carried in a small bottle. For cleaning, benzoin is the thing for cleaning off grease stains.

Labeling specimens is a matter of taste, as much print as possible should be had and the names printed neatly. It requires a little more time to use a pen or pencil letter by letter in the printing but it adds much to the value of the cabinet specimen later. I know a collector whose filed notes looked all the world like they had been printed by a press and who has the art of interspersing water color drawings of birds through the notes at intervals. For types, pink or red paper or card board should be used. I would rather have one perfect specimen than three indifferent ones.

In the preparation of the eggs, the late Dr. W. L. Rolph, made holes scarcely larger than a pinpoint, in eggs the size of crows eggs. Likewise Major Bendere showed me eggs prepared by Dr. Fisher with the same sized small hole. This stirred in my desire to measure up the splendid examples, and when I took my first set of Bald Eagle after a hard climb near Washington, D. C. I wanted to preserve it up to the highest standard and struck on a new idea. I took a hypodermic syringe and filled the point and used water to force the contents from the Eagle egg. By taking the utmost care I entirely emptied the contents through a single hole. I would recommend such methods for use on such eggs as the California Condor, but it is to be trusted that no more eggs of this bird will be taken. Mr. Stephens of San Diego states that now days a collector who would collect Condor's eggs for profit would



Birds of Brooks County, W. Virginia. Male and Female Cerulian Warbler. Male Drawn From Life Sketch Made In Field. Female From Sketch of Closely Related Dendroica.

stand a chance of having his permit revoked. Well, the hypodermic method is par excellent but requires patience. Still the beautifully small hole will repay for the care and time.

J. W. Daniels, Jr.

#### Bird Nesting Noted From Yates, County, N. Y.

The interval of time between the date arrival of birds and the very date of beginning nest construction, and date when first egg was deposited, also the number of days required to complete nests, and lay full sets of eggs is an interesting phase of bird nesting study.

An old date book of mine has taken new interest since I began to search its well filled pages and tabulated these data.

Some birds begin nest construction in a remarkably short time after arrival, and I find recorded many instances of the first beginning of nests, first eggs laid and time required to build nests and deposit the usual complement of eggs.

The following data or observations illustrated a few instances concerning this subject—of birds observed almost daily during the nesting time.

#### Baltimore Oriole.

The Baltimore Oriole arrives as early as April 20th, the usual time being May 1-5. In 1895 they arrived on May 3 and on May 15 I found a nest containing fresh eggs. Figuring backwards we find the first eggs were probably laid on May 11th. Just eight days after the arrival of the Oriole, and assuming that it required five days to sew and lace its intricate pouch of a nest, we are led to believe the nest was begun three days after date arrival of the birds. In 1899 they came on April 28th and on May 5 I observed a female tearing shreds of

weed bark for the first strands of her nest, seven days after arrival. In 1901 they arrived on May 5 and on May 10 a pair commenced a nest in my yard.

#### Indigo Bunting.

I have recorded the Indigo Bunting as early as May 2nd but this however only once in 25 years, the normal date being May 10th. There were several years however the Indigo did not appear until May 10-15. In 1896 they arrived here and also in Geneva (24 miles away) on May 17th and one pair at least did not waste any time, for I found on May 27th a nest with 4 fresh eggs. The first egg must have been deposited on May 23rd, just 6 days after the species arrived. Here is an instance of nest building in 48 hours after the arrival for we may well admit that it requires four days for the Indigo bird to finish a nest.

#### Red Eyed Vireo.

This Vireo is a June nesting bird, usually the earliest nest construction begins during the last week of May. I have but one remarkable record of extremely early nesting. This occurred in 1905 when the Red Eyed Vireo arrived about as usual on May 4 and on May 14 I found a newly finished nest. This same year another nest was reported to me as containing one egg on May 13.

#### Louisiana Water Thrush.

This interesting species, the gay "Othellos" of the finger lakes gullies arrive here on the average close to April 15, the earliest date being April 10. However, the arrival date of the Louisiana Water Thrush for 1902 was April 19th and I found a nest on May 4th containing 6 fresh eggs. We may figure that the first egg was deposited on April 28 only three or four days

after arrival. My 60 odd nesting records indicate that the usual interval between this bird's arrival and first egg is about 20 days. In regard to the nesting of this bird it is not at all unusual to find one or two partly unfinished nests near the one finally used.

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#### Green Heron.

From the time that the "Shyte-poke" arrives it does not do much "poking" around before it proceeds to get busy immediately constructing its frail platform nest of twigs with the lining of slender twigs arranged just so, with the ends laid in the center and radiating towards the rim, after the fashion of wheel spokes.

The Green Heron arrives as early as April 20th and late as May 2nd, but the average date for 26 years is April 25th.

In 1907 they arrived on May 2nd and on May 13th I found a nest with five eggs having tiny embryos. I figured that this bird commenced her nest or repaired an old one within two days after the arrival. Incubation was close to four days, so it seems logical that the first egg was laid about May 4th. During these years I worked near a big cattail swamp, and the "tag alder" haunts of Green Herons and I am satisfied that this bird could not have been here several days unseen, therefore, I believe this record is fairly accurate. In other years my dates show sets of four and five fresh eggs prior to May 20th with fresh to large embryos sets from May 20th to May 30th.

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#### Sora Rail.

The Sora arrives as early as April 13th, but usually close to the 20th I have found finished nests as early as April 29 and nests with first eggs as early as April 30th and May 1. I do

not think it requires over two days for a Sora to construct a nest.

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#### Virginia Rail.

This Rail has arrived here as early as April 7th. This is, however, a rare date, the usual date being close to April 16th. I have usually noted the Virginia Rail from two to three days before the Sora and surely both birds are noisy enough to not escape notice even if not actually seen.

The earliest first egg I have noted of the Virginia Rail was on May 2nd and this happened to be in a year when they arrived on April 9th.

While the Virginia Rail always precedes the Sora in arriving at their nesting haunts by three or four days, their nesting dates begin in unison. We might explain this feature as an effect of the usual inclement weather during the latter part of April.

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#### Bronze Grackle.

The Grackle is another bird that gets busy almost as soon as arriving here. They take immediate possession of their old nesting colonies in the several evergreen groves that adorn the woodsy hamlet of Branchport. The Grackle unlike the Red Wing is erratic in time of arrival. They vary anywhere from March 6 to 28, but I have more records between March 12 to 17 than any other date. The earliest date that I have observed them to carry nest material—and I saw them daily—was on April 9th.

One set of five eggs taken April 27th had large embryos. I estimate the first egg was laid on April 17th. One year I collected 10 fresh sets from May 1 to 7. The latest nesting date recorded is four fresh eggs on May 30th.

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#### Ovenbird.

The Ovenbird being a bird of sedate



methodical habits, we are not at all surprised to find that it arrives on tolerably regular dates year after year. My earliest record is April 28th. It would be a rare occasion not to find the Ovenbird in suitable haunts by May 1 or 2nd.

In 1905 they arrived April 30th and on May 14th I noted two nests just begun and one nest ready to be lined. The earliest fresh egg laid that I have recorded was deposited on May 20th. Another record reads May 21st nest being lined. May 27th one egg, May 31 one egg. June five three eggs and one of the Cowbird's, June 8th four eggs with one of the Cowbird's.

Here is an illustration of the Oven Bird's methodical habits for it is evident that she fussed around eight or nine days to get the nest arranged just so before depositing the first egg and then probably owing to a Sunday or Decoration day she had not laid the second egg by the 31st. However, an accommodating Cowbird had slyly deposited the usual hard shell on time. This particular Ovenbird was at least 12 days laying four eggs.

The nest was begun on May 17th, which figures that 22 days this bird occupied itself in nest building and depositing four eggs, they were perfectly fresh on June 8th. The usual time for fresh sets is the last week in May and they also nest in considerable numbers throughout the month of June. Several recorded July nests are of, course, second or third attempts at nesting.

#### Ruby Throated Humming Bird.

I had thought to present some data in regard to the interval of time between the Ruby Throated Humming Bird's arrival and the very first beginning of its nest. But I find that the years I discovered the first fragments of nest construction I had no migra-

tion dates, also vice versa, also how provoking, as exasperating as the Hummer is charming.

Anyway they arrive here, I might say, between May 8th and 18th. The normal time being May 10 to 12. The earliest recorded date of a Humming Bird beginning to fabricate its dainty nest was on May 29th. On June 3 it was unlined but June 7th there were two eggs thus taking 10 days to build the nest and lay two eggs. If we use the above record as a basis for another nest and two eggs with tiny embryos, that I found on June 10, then I figure that this nest was probably begun on May 27th. Records of another Hummer nest indicate that this would be fairly accurate.

Several times I have found unfinished nests with one egg and up to time of laying the second egg, no decoration of lichens and spider webs would be added to the nest.

Clarence F. Stone,  
Branchport, N. Y.

#### The Meadow Lark.

By W. W. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine.

The Meadow Lark is a comparatively new resident in Maine. In 1882, in his "Catalogue of Birds Found in the Vicinity of Portland, Maine," Mr. Nathan C. Brown gives this bird as a rare summer resident. Dates of arrival and departure then given were April 22 and Nov. 3. This is the first record of the Meadow Lark I find for this state. I first noted its occurrence in this locality May 13, 1892, and next noted Sept. 23, 1892. The earliest date of their arrival in the spring I have is April 9, 1894, the day being a cold blustery one with the wind north-east and snowing. I have no definite date of their departure; it is the last of October or the first of November, depending on the weather. The Meadow Lark is still with us at this



Hutchin's Goose on Home Place. July 14, 1919.

—Photo by Virginia Lane.

date October 12, 1919. I think that there has been a slow increase in numbers in the state since that time. In this locality the increase has been slow, indeed, since five is the largest number I have ever noted in the fall, of a family of old and young, more often only three. The Meadow Lark once identified is easily discovered even at a distance; its size, mode of flying, alternate flappings of wings and sailings, and the two white outer tail feathers all serve to establish its identity. Though a pair of Meadow Larks have nested in my fields each year for several years, I have never found their nest with the eggs, I have found the nest without the eggs twice, and three times have found the eggs without the nest. Three different years I have found the eggs of the

Meadow Lark while harvesting my hay crop, and each time in the month of July. Supposedly each time I have disturbed the female in my work, and broken up the nest, since having once raked up an egg in the new made hay, once the egg was layed on the top of a hay cock, and this year July 11, 1919, finding one fresh egg on the ground at the foot of a hay cock. July 22, 1904 is the latest date of finding their eggs I have. Knight in his "Birds of Maine" sets of nesting date as "early in June," but my experience points to a much later date, and I would set the time for finding fresh eggs from the middle of June to the last of July.

Both Chester A. Reed in *N. A. Birds' Eggs*, and Oliver Davis, in *Nest and Eggs of North American Birds*,



describe the ground color of the egg of the Meadow Lark as white. Those which I have collected, have a shade of greenish blue for a ground color, in the fresh egg, but fades to white in time. The nests which I have found (without the eggs) have been some five inches across the top situated in a cavity of some depth, as one made by the hoofs of cattle in soft ground. Nest made of fine dead grass woven together. There is a record of the Maine Ornithological Society Vol. XI, page 80. Fred S. Walker, Auk Vol. XXVII reports more fully of the Meadow Larks wintering at Pine Point, Maine. He says, "I have seen these birds there almost daily throughout the past three winters. Making their home in the thick woods near by, they obtain their food from the marsh. In the winter of 1907-08 a flock of eight stayed in the vicinity, the next winter the number increased to twelve to fourteen, 1909-10 there were thirty-five to forty. In cold weather, and the marsh covered with snow these birds would venture up to the railway station and pick up grain which had fallen from the freight cars." Mr. Walker also fed them at times with grain, cracked corn, oats and barley, which they ate with a relish. He also states that on warm days in January and February they often alighted on the telegraph wires and sang. A large portion of its food, three fourths at least, consists of insects, and in the fall it feeds mainly on grasshoppers. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that twenty Meadow Larks consume 1,000 grasshoppers a day during the season. A grasshopper is said to consume an amount of grass equal to its own weight each day. In California the ranchers of San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys reported a loss of one third to one half of their grain crops due to the depredations

of Meadow Larks on the sprouting seed. Investigations justify the charges, but also show that as a destroyer of cutworms and grasshoppers, the Meadow Lark is unequalled by any other California bird, and clearly does a deal to offset the direct damage. One may see from this what a great benefit the Meadow Lark is to the farmer. The Meadow Lark was formerly hunted for game. Wilson in American Ornithology says of the Meadow Lark: "They are generally considered for size and delicacy little inferior to the quail, and valued accordingly. There is scarcely a market day in Philadelphia from September to March, but they may be found in the Market." The name "Meadow Lark" was first applied to this bird by Alexander Wilson, Bartram calls it "The Great Meadow Lark" and Catesby "The Large Lark." Pennant called it the "Crescent Stare." Fanny Hardy Eckstorm calling attention to the slow advance of the Meadow Lark into the eastern section of the state says, Auk 1909. "It is one of the group of Alleghanian birds which are steadily pushing their way eastward across what was formerly a forest portion of the state. The advance of these birds is curious and should have been studied much more closely than it has been so far. The important point is the determination of how long one of our north and south flowing rivers like the Kennebec and the Penobscot holds a species in check. They seem very reluctant to cross a stream like the Penobscot, here about a quarter of a mile wide. From five to fifteen years is required before a species well established in Bangor, come over here, just across the river, to breed."

This coincides with observations I have made on my farm. The Sebasticook river, a branch of the Kennebec is one of its boundaries, and it was



Edward S. Coombs of Boston, and His Mother.

several years after I noted this bird to the west of the river, before it appeared on this side, the east. Often I have observed the bird to arise from the ground and alight on some tree or the telephone wires which cross the river at this point, and afterward take flight to some distant field, but never once have I noted it to cross the river. That the Meadowlark migrates by night is evinced by the observations made at night of migrating birds, by O. G. Libby, as reported in *Auk* Vol. XVI, page 144. These observations were made through a six-inch telescope trained on the moon during exceptionally clear nights. Of the birds noted and identified the Blackbirds were the most numerous and next to them came the Meadowlarks, several flocks being observed.

#### Fur and Feathers.

A few days ago in the late fall I had a two week's vacation which I spent mostly in the woods. I wanted to get

a few nice skins to make a couple of sets of furs so I had a few good trapping sets fixed up quite a ways back in the woods. I had good luck or success or both during this vacation and had several very successful days. One of the best days I had on this vacation was a nice still sunny day.

I arose early and after quite a tramp in the dark reached my starting-in place just as day was breaking. As I reached the turning in point I met a skunk in the middle of the road and came near to walking over him but luckily saw him in time. Needless to say I detoured and gave him plenty of room. I sat down awhile until it was light enough to see good and was well entertained by the hooting of a pair of Horned Owls. When it was light enough to see to shoot I began working back in on an old woods road. As the leaves and nuts were about all down I watched the ground close and soon saw a squirrel start off at full speed. I raced him up a tree

when after twenty minutes he came out and I got him.

Farther on a fine jet-black fellow started off on the ground from behind some logs but he was in range and I got him on the run. Not long afterwards I heard a racket in the dry-leaves and coming my way. Standing still I saw a black squirrel coming in a great hurry. As there seemed to be nothing pursuing him I took him along with me.

After going a long ways I saw off to one side a black squirrel going up a pine tree. Going over I sat down a while and soon got him. Shortly after I saw another go up a large oak, but although I sat there for some time this one failed to appear again. While watching these two last places I saw a few birds. Red-bellied Nuthatches were fairly common, also Jays, Chickadees, a few Juncos and now and then a Hairy or a Downy Woodpecker. But it was rather late for many migrants.

By this time it was quite warm so selecting a place I sat down a while. Red or pine squirrels were abundant all day and quite noisy and active. I had been sitting on an old log when I heard a racket among the fallen leaves on the ground below me and very soon on a large stub I saw a black squirrel going at full speed and close at his heels was a red squirrel. I was just raising my gun when right down past me came a large noiseless object that turned out to be a Barred Owl. Straight at the two squirrels he plunged. The black was the sharpest of the two and went down under the stub and into a hole that was handy. But the Red sprang to a tree where by a sudden upward swoop of the Owl he was quickly picked off. The Owl evidently didn't like my presence for he kept right on going with his victim. As squirrels were quite plentiful I let this black one go and going on

further I sat down at another likely look place.

At this place there was a big dead hemlock which the Pileated Woodpeckers were working on and I had not been there long until along came a Pileated and began business on the dead tree. A great deal of the bark had been hammered off and the ground was littered by it. I watched the Pileated working and the red squirrel chasing around until a black squirrel came along then I took Mr. Black along with me.

I was now getting into rougher woods and near the first of my traps, when I glimpsed what looked to be a fine gray squirrel running off on the ground. I raced it away and concluded it had gone up a big stub among some hemlocks so I sat down for a while and got a very large and finely marked gray squirrel. It was fine fur and had considerable rusty color, also a black throat and breast so I kept it in good shape and mounted it for my collection. I saw several more squirrels afterwards but as this made six I was done with squirrels for that day. I looked at a couple of traps but with no results, but saw a very large flock of Crows flying over and a belated Red-shouldered Hawk circling about. Then I came to a water set and found my first catch—a skunk. He was drowned all right but was a sweet smelling object nevertheless. As it was a skunk I was after I left him in the water to rinse off so I could get my traps off the next trip.

As I drew near a water set in a little spring run, I saw a red fox hard and fast. It was an old dog and in as handsome fur as any I ever saw in midwinter. It sure was a beauty. At a trap set in the edge of a slashing but in the heavy timber I had a good large porcupine. This trap was set for wildcat so I used the "porky"

for bait. This trap was set at a regular cat crossing and later was the scene of several cat disasters, among them one record being broken for weight and dimensions. But what happened before this family of cats got whipped out with trap, dog and gun is quite a story.

For a mile along this stream there were numerous signs of bear but they slashings. I flushed Grouse occasionally and got several shots, getting two Grouse to add to my string. At one trap I got one very large and fine were no doubt snoozing in the near by raccoon. Would like to have weighed and measured him but he was too heavy to pack all the way back home with the rest of my game so I had to peel him. I got another raccoon also, a medium sized, but nicely furred one. At a trap set in a runway that looked as if it was used by mink I got an old big mink that probably wouldn't have gone near if the trap had been baited.

On the way in through bushy broken timber I saw quite a few flocks of Juncos and Jays and Chickadees and one Sharp-shinned Hawk. At the very last trap where I had seen plenty of signs of raccoon I found one drowned and waiting for me. When I got home I had some nice furs, also a good string of game for the folks to eat. I had very good success right along during this vacation but this day was by far the most pleasant day to be in the woods, besides being a very successful one.

R. B. Simpson.

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#### Charles J. Pennock Found.

In the June 13th Oologist, Vol XXX, page 92, we published an account of the sudden disappearance of Charles J. Pennock of Kennett Square, N. J. Mr. Pennock was at one time the Burgess of his town and at the time of his disappearance was Justice of the

Peace, tax collector, representative of several insurance companies and a recognized man of financial standing. He was a director in the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, and a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. He and his wife went from their home one day over six years ago to Philadelphia, she to shop and he to attend a meeting of the Delaware Valley Club. After the club he complained of not feeling well, and about half past ten in the evening went to the R. R. station ostensibly to take the train for home.

That was the last seen or heard of him for more than six years. Foul play was feared and other theories advanced. A nation wide search was instituted by his relatives and friends which was both thorough and persistent, being backed by ample funds, but all to no purpose. He simply had faded from the face of the earth, apparently so far as any one knew, leaving no track or trace.

Imagine the pleasurable surprise with which his multitude of friends read the announcement of his discovery in Associated Press dispatches of Jan. 1st, as follows:

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#### "Leadership."

Our brother, Leon Dawson, director of the Museum of Comparative Oology of Santa Barbara, California, advises us in a Circular Letter that:

"The publication last spring of our little 'Journal' brought us a host of desirable friends. The plan of co-operation is cordially approved at home and abroad, indeed the cordiality of the reponse has forced upon us a responsibility of leadership in this special field of oology which as we do not disregard."

We hardly know whether to congratulate or console Brother Dawson upon his assumption of this self imposed responsibility.



# NOTICE !

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During 1920 the Oologist will publish advertisements only for the length of time for which they are paid for, and no longer.

If you want to get Birds' Skins, Eggs, Nests, or Mounted, or to dispose of the same, or to get or sell books relating to the same, we are the very best medium in America through which to secure or dispose of the same.

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The Oologist

WANTED—Common sets of all kinds ornithological magazines, bird skins. Will pay reasonable prices. What have you? Will be in the Exchange market in spring. JOHNSON A. NEFF, P. O. Box 9, Marionville, Mo.

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WANTED—To correspond with any enthusiastic, but careful, students of natural history that will exchange ideas, experiences, etc. Friendly correspondence solicited, especially with Ornithologists; mammalogists; botanists; and lepidopterists. THEODORE R. GREER, Sheridan, Ill. care F. R. A.

FOR EXCHANGE—Birds, Skins and mounted birds; also eggs in sets and singles. Wanted, Bird skins and eggs in sets. Send lists. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 811 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Mich.

WILL BUY for cash or exchange Printing Press outfit, Stereopticon. Nature Specimens for sets with or without nests, Pistols, Skins, Ringtail Cats. DEAN NAT. SCIENCE ESTB., Alliance, Ohio.

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THE OOLOGIST.



# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 3.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 395



## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notices inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

EXCHANGE—Collection of North American Birds. Containing four hundred and twenty-three species and sub-species. Represented by thirteen hundred and sixty specimens. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

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Would like to Exchange bird Migration notes with observer in western state, preferably Montana. A. S. WARTHIN, Ferda Road, Ann Arbor, Mich.

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WANTED—Skins of water and shore birds, Grouse and Quail and many Raptor Raptores; Eggs in sets. Have many skins sets, curios, shells, minerals, Butterflies, etc., to offer. ERNEST H. SHORT, Rochester, N. Y.

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WANTED—Perfect pairs of mammals, skins from Western states or Canada, also eggs in sets A.O.U. Nos. 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, 36, 39, 40a, 42b, 45, 46, 48, 52, 55, 57, 60, 1, 62, 68, 73, for which I will pay cash. Please send list. W. R. CAMPBELL, Lobo P. O., Ont. Canada.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 3

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 395

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

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Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## YE EDITOR

**W**HEN this issue of The Oologist is made up, March 21st, Ye Editor is at home sick in bed, where he has been for a week with a bad attack of the flu, which has settled in his left ear, necessitating a serious surgical operation. At this writing he is improving.

The magazine for this month is edited by the undersigned, who has been connected with The Oologist for the past eighteen months.

Virginia Lane.

**Charles J. Pennock.**

Through an error in making up the last Oologist the following was omitted from the last column on page 26.

Philadelphia, Feb. 7.—Six years ago Charles J. Pennock, an ornithologist of note and a leading citizen of Kennett Square, Pa., disappeared unaccountably.

Now he has returned and is reunited with his wife. A love of birds, the ruling passion of his life, was responsible for his continued concealment, and it was responsible also for his reappearance.

The most recent chapter of Mr. Pennock's career culminated in this city, when he met his wife at the home of his brother-in-law, Dr. Richard J. Phillips. Mr. Pennock, who disappeared mysteriously on May 15, 1913, was brought back by Dr. Phillips from St. Marks, Fla., where he was living under the name of "John Williams."

Dr. Witmer Stone, curator of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, is primarily responsible for Mr. Pennock's return.

**Suspicion is aroused.**

Dr. Stone returned late in September from an extended stay in Arizona. He found many manuscripts awaiting his perusal which had been submitted for publication in the ornithological magazine, *The Auk*, of which Dr. Stone is the editor.

One article had been forwarded to Dr. Stone from the natural science department of the Federal Department of Agriculture. It was a description of a number of rare birds seen in Florida and it was a noteworthy article.

The name "John Williams," which was signed to the articles, was unknown to Dr. Stone. He had never heard of St. Marks, Fla. As he read the descriptions, written in the precise and scientific manner of the master ornithologist, Dr. Stone was impressed.

Then Dr. Stone thought of his intimate friend, Charles Pennock. The night of May 15, 1913, Mr. Pennock had attended an ornithological meeting at the Academy of Music. After the meeting the two friends and lovers of birds had been together. Mr. Pennock had not been seen or heard from again after that day.

**Goes to Florida Town.**

When the possibility of Mr. Pennock and "John Williams" being the same man occurred to Dr. Stone, he dismissed the idea as ridiculous and did not mention it to any one.

Finally, however, in November, he decided to consult with Dr. Phillips. As a result Dr. Phillips left Philadelphia for St. Marks. The last stage of his journey was in the pine tree region of Florida. He found St. Marks to be a hamlet with a turpentine still and a few dwellings.

It was easy to find "John Williams." The instant he saw him Dr. Phillips knew he had discovered Mr. Pennock and the latter immediately recognized Dr. Phillips. Bystanders being present, they greeted each other casually despite their amazement.

**Persuades Him to Return.**

That night, in the three-room shack in which Mr. Pennock was living, he men "talked the thing out," and Dr. Phillips persuaded him to return to his wife. Mr. Pennock told how overwork and business worries in Kennet Square had caused a sudden return of an old trouble. Once before, 20 years ago, when he was recovering from an attack of inflammatory rheumatism, he had wandered about in this state for two days.

Mr. Pennock said that after he had been attacked in 1913 he found himself in Baltimore, the victim of a delusion that he must remain away from home. He had a little less than \$100 in his pockets. By easy stages he



moved toward the South, living largely in small towns, hunting and studying outdoor life. He finally settled in St. Marks, where he did a little book-keeping for the turpentine establishment.

#### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY NOTES.

##### Winter 1919-1920.

The winter just ending, with its attending heavy snows and severe cold, has been, without doubt, the most rigorous one that Northern New Jersey has experienced in several decades. The first snow of the season occurred on December 6th when about one half inch fell. On the 7th the weather was fair, but on 8th and 9th heavy rains fell and the first severe cold weather of the winter were experienced. On December 17th a fall of several inches of snow occurred and the weather was bitter cold. This severe weather continued until December 26th when it moderated slightly. January 1st was rather warm, but immediately after cold weather again set in and continued throughout the month. February, likewise, was very cold throughout. On the 4th it rained and followed by a heavy fall of sleet. On the 5th considerable snow fell as well as on the 6th. After this date a number of smaller snowfalls took place so that by March 1st there was about eighteen inches of snow on the ground.

Bird-life during this winter has been somewhat different than in numerous years within the past decade. Many of the species which usually range much further to the north of this section were present and other species which heretofore have been present in former years were conspicuous because of their entire absence.

Frequent trips were made afield by the writer during the months of December, January and February, and

during these three months, forty-five species were observed: These were the Herring Gull, Merganser, Mallard, Black Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-neck Pheasant, Marsh Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Flicker, Phoebe, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, Meadowlark, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Redpoll, Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Snowflake, White-throated Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Junco, Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Northern Shrike, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Robin and Bluebird.

On December 7th, a trip was made afoot through Singac, Mountain View, Pequannock, Pompton Plains and Pompton. (All Passaic County), and the following were observed: Merganser (one male along the Pompton River in Pequannock); Black Duck (Two along the Pompton River at Pompton Plains); Marsh Hawk (one over the fields adjacent to canal feeder at Pompton Plains); Hairy Woodpecker (one at Singac along the Passaic River); Downy (five during the day at different points); Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, and Goldfinch (all rather common at different points); Junco (a flock of about fifteen at Pompton); Song Sparrow (rather common); Northern Shrike (one at Mountain View); Tufted Titmouse (three along the canal feeder at Pequannock); Chickadee (rather common); Robin (two at Pompton Plains) and Bluebird (one at Pompton).

On December 14th, the section known as Federal Hill at Pompton Lakes was canvassed and two Ruffed Grouse and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

were observed. In addition to these the Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, Blue Jay, Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Junco, Song Sparrow, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee and Bluebird were recorded here.

On December 21st, the locality about Hawthorne, Midland Park and Wortendyke was traversed and one male Ring-necked Pheasant was observed on Goffle Hill in Hawthorne; Barred Owl, one at Midland Park, Screech Owl, one at Wortendyke adjacent to the Susquehanna railroad tracks in a copse of conifers; Winter Wren (one in a brush pile near Midland Park railroad depot; and Hermit Thrush (one at Wortendyke).

On December 23d, a Cardinal was observed in a copse of weeds in Hawthorne.

On December 25th, the writer took the usual Census for Bird Lore in Hawthorne, Ridgewood, and Glen Rock, and on this trip observed the Horned Lark, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Cedar Waxwing and Bluebird, which are rather unusual species for this section.

On December 29th, the Sparrow Hawk was observed at Riverside Paterson and since that time has been rather common in this locality, and elsewhere along the Passaic River.

January 1st, 1920, the section including Caldwell, Fairfield, Singac, Little Falls and West Paterson were canvassed and a single Mallard was observed at Pine Brook on the Passaic River; a Red-shouldered Hawk was observed in Fairfield, Horned Lark (five along the roadside in Singac), Pine Grosbeak (one male seen in some conifers adjacent to the Passaic River at Little Falls. The writer

spent a half hour studying this bird at close range and positively identified it by so doing); Purple Finch (four males and six females near the Lackawanna railroad bridge in West Paterson); Fox Sparrow (two at Little Falls; Northern Shrike (one at Fairfield); and Winter Wren (one at West Paterson).

January 18th, the section in Richfield and Allwood and along the Morris Canal to Paterson was traversed and the Sharp-shinned Hawk, (one at Richfield); Screech Owl (one along the canal at Richfield); Pine Siskin (three in Allwood); and Bluebird (one in South Paterson) were observed.

February 1st, the section about Pompton Lake was visited and the Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Meadowlark, Pine Siskin, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Bluebird were observed in addition to the usual winter species.

February 8th, a single male Redpoll was observed at Hawthorne.

February 12th, the section in North Halden and Totowa was canvassed and the Snowflake and Horned Lark were observed.

February 23d, the section in Charlottesburg, Smith Mills and Butler was visited and the following were observed: While enroute to Charlottesburg the following were observed from the train window: Starling (common); Blue Jay (two); Tree Sparrow (two) and Song Sparrow (one) at Hawthorne; Barred Owl (one at Wortendyke); Meadowlark (one at Wyckoff); and Crow (one at Pompton Lakes). From Charlottesburg to Butler the trip was continued on foot and the following species were observed: Golden-crowned Kinglet was the first bird to be observed. A single Junco was next observed near the Newark Waterworks in an open shed.



Two Chickadees and five Horned Larks were then seen. Blue Jays were heard calling frequently near Smith Mills and here also four Bluebirds were seen flying overhead northward. In Butler three Juncoes, a Pine Siskin and two more Blue Jays were observed. This day was very cold and this probably accounts for the scarcity of some and absence of others from the list.

March 7th, Branch Brook Park, Newark, was canvassed and the second record of the Redpoll for the winter was made near the conservatories in the northern section. The Tree Sparrows, White-throats, Song Sparrow, Pine Siskin and Chickadee were present.

Louis S. Kohler.

Hawthorne, N. J., Mar. 15, 1920.

#### Birds Noted From the Back Lot.

The back lot consists of three lots two miles west of the center of San Jose facing Meridian Road and the block is surrounded on three sides by street car lines and small boys with guns and air-guns. One shot a Robin the other day. There are three large elm trees across the road and several blue gum trees on the front of the lots.

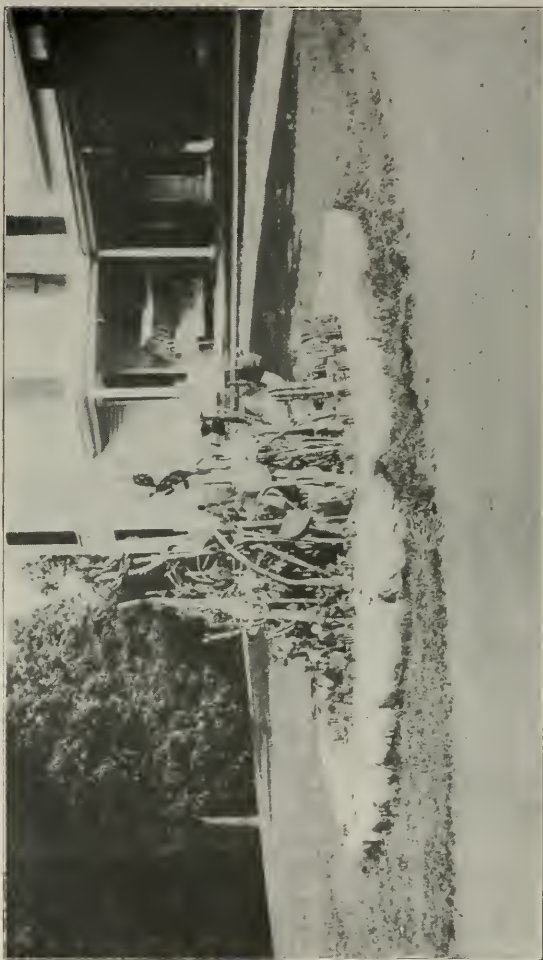
There was a heavy fog all day on February 13, 1920 and the following birds were noted between 8:30 and 9:30 a. m. The largest number in one day.

273	Killdeer .....	1
412	Red-shafted Flicker .....	1
429	Black-chinned Hummingbird..	3
464	Western Flycatcher .....	3
501b	Western Meadowlark.....	1
511	Brewer's Blackbird .....	2
519	California Linnet .....	1
554	White-crowned Sparrow .....	4
1. S.	English Sparrow.....	20
619	Cedar Waxwing.....	37
697	American Pipit .....	3

761a	Western Robin .....	29
743a	California Bush-Tit.....	2

The following were noted between 8:30 and 9:30 each day from January 1, 1916 to January 1, 1920.

202	Black-crowned Night Heron...	3
273	Killdeer .....	
294	California Partridge .....	1
325	Turkey Vulture .....	5
360a	Desert Sparrow Hawk.....	3
365	American Barn Owl.....	2
413	Red-shafted Flicker .....	
429	Black-chinned Hummingbird ..	
431	Anna's Hummingbird .....	
436	Calliope Hummingbird .....	
454	Ash-throated Flycatcher .....	1
458a	Western Black Phoebe.....	1
464	Western Flycatcher.....	
481	California Jay .....	1
497	Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	6
499	Bicolored Blackbird.....	
501b	Western Meadowlark.....	
508	Bullock's Oriole.....	
510	Brewer's Blackbird.....	
519	California Linnet.....	
521a	Mexican Crossbill.....	
529b	California Goldfinch.....	
530	Arkansas Goldfinch.....	
530a	Green-backed Goldfinch.....	
1. S.	English Sparrow, abundant..	
554	White-crowned Sparrow.....	
560a	Western Chipping Sparrow...	6
567d	Pt. Pinos Junco.....	4
581d	Santa Cruz Song Sparrow....	1
583	Lincoln's Sparrow.....	1
591b	California Towhee.....	
596	Black-headed Grosbeak.....	
599	Lazuli Bunting.....	
611a	Western Martin.....	1
612	Cliff Swallow.....	
619	Cedar Waxwing.....	
622b	California Shrike.....	
646a	Lutescent Warbler.....	1
680	Macgillivray's Warbler.....	
683a	Long-tailed Chat.....	3
685b	Golden Pileolated Warbler....	
697	American Pipit.....	
703a	Western Mockingbird.....	1
733	Plain Titmouse.....	1



Cactus Bed at Home, July 14, 1919.—Photo by Virginia Lane.

743a California Bush-Tit.....	
744 Lead-colored Bush-Tit.....	1
758 Russet-backed Thrush.....	4
761a Western Robin.....	
763 Varied Thrush.....	1
767 Western Bluebird.....	8

W. A. Strong,  
San Jose, Cal.

#### Bohemian Waxwings In Kansas.

Prompted by the several notes in regard to the unusual wintral presence of the Bohemian Waxwing, I am disposed to send a few notes on the occurrence of this erratic creature in a region wherein it has always been credited as "very rare." Only about four winters out of fourteen, covering my residence in Kansas, have I ever seen the Bohemian Waxwing. In the majority of these cases, the birds seen have generally numbered only about from ten to forty in a flock; with the (apparently-identical) flock of forty occurring, statedly, during a period of some two months. (At Irving, five miles away, I saw, during a single winter, a flock of about twenty birds, three or four times). This present winter I have seen flocks of various sizes—ranging from ten to sixty. In most cases, I have been led to feel that the flocks observed were different flocks. They have appeared, with one exception, invariably at Blue Rapids, the only exception be a flock of about twenty, seen at Marysville, fifteen miles away. A number of people have inquired about these interesting birds; one man, from the country, six miles to the Northeast, reporting a flock of fully 200, feeding on his cedar-berries. My first flocks of the Bohemian Waxwings were seen in December. The last flock, to date, appeared about the twentieth of February.

The sporadic wintral occurrence of this erratic bird, whose food appears

to be greatly variant, is quite paralleled by its breeding variances. The scattered records covering what has been learned of southerly breedings of this wierd creature make interesting reading.

P. B. Peabody.

#### In Defense.

Last October, the issue of The Oologist included a list of species observed at Lexington, Missouri, by several bird students, including myself. Many of the species listed were collected there. I am prepared to explain just why each species listed is on the list, and therefore take some little interest in any criticism published concerning it.

In the January issue, Mr. P. B. Peabody of Blue Rapids, Kansas, writes: "There are often items coming into print that require some modification or explanation," and he cites my reference to the occurrence of the Long-tailed Chickadee as an example of that fact. "Of course, Missouri is quite out of the range of this Chickadee," are his words of "explanation." A rather broad statement, I would say. It might be well to prove its fallacy in order to show the correctness of my statement.

In the first place, let me say that Lexington is only forty-five miles from the Kansas line, and is located on the Missouri River. These two facts are of primary importance in understanding the range of *P. a. septentrionalis*.

Fortunately for Missouri ornithologists, Mr. Otto Widmann (1) of St. Louis and Mr. Harry Harris (2) of Kansas City have published data on the birds of the state. There are perhaps no more capable ornithologists in the state than these two men. Their lists are full of valuable data, and I shall use their references freely in my "ex-

planation." This is not a "modification," however.

As early as 1854, we have, from Mr. P. R. Hoy, (3) a record of the knowledge of the occurrence of the Long-tailed Chickadee in Western Missouri. Again, in 1874, Mr. W. E. D. Scott (4) stated that a series of Chickadees taken in Johnson Co., many closely approached *P. a. septentrionalis*. Mr. B. F. Bush, an observer at Courtney, Jackson County, said, "The Long-tailed Ch. occurs here much of the time and undoubtedly breeds." Pearse City also reports the form, and to cap the climax, Mr. Widmann himself states that: "In Atchison Co. (Langdon, Rockport, etc.) this was the only form found by the writer in June, 1906."

The above data may be found in Mr. Widmann's book. Mr. Harris repeats Mr. Bush's record and says: "A few counties to the north, as well as twenty or thirty miles to the west, this form is the common Chickadee." He adds: "The local records are chiefly from the Missouri bottoms."

My personal knowledge with reference to the occurrence at Lexington is not so extensive as that of Mr. J. Clark Salyer of Lexington. When he noticed the reference in *The Oologist* for January, he wrote me, stating that he was positive that four out of eight or nine Chickadees in his collection (taken at Lexington) are "true *septentrionalis*."

My defense is not given in a spirit of contentiousness. I recognize Mr. Peabody's standing as an ornithologist of experience. However, I do present these facts merely to clear up his little error in the January *Oologist*, and I hope I will be judged accordingly.

1. A Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri. By Otto Widmann. (1907).

2. Birds of the Kansas City Region. By Harry Harris (1919).

3. Annual Report of Smithsonian Institution for 1864.

4. Nuttall Bulletin, Vol 4, page 140.  
E. Gordon Alexander,  
Fayette, Mo.

#### Texas Migration Notes.

Unusual flight of Goldfinches were observed on Marine Creek near North Ft. Worth, Texas, Feb. 20, 1920. I estimated that two hundred or more were in the elm trees along the creek.

While motoring over Lake Worth near the Spillway, I observed many ducks of different kinds. They were tame, as no shooting has gone on since Mr. Maxon has kept a sharp lookout for anyone breaking the duck law. I ran the motor boat up close and took some pictures, then making them fly, I got some photos while they were in flight. Not many were identified, as there were so many different kinds, but I recognized Red Heads, Spoonbills, Pintails, Mallard, Am. Scaup, and Teal.

I guess on account of not a very severe winter is the cause of the scarcity of Cedar Waxwings. I have only observed a few, and other census takers have only reported a small flight.

Robins were not as plentiful as usual, but several good flights were observed.

A few scattered Gulls are on the lake at present.

Crows have been seen in large flights.

Feb. 15th, half grown Horned Owls observed.

Feb. 20, fresh Hawk's nest completed.

Not but mighty few summer breeders have arrived here yet.

Ramon Graham,  
Texas Notes, 1920.



Cactus Bed at Home, July 14, 1919.—Photo by Virginia Lane.



**TWO SPECIES OF BIRDS USE ONE NEST. OTHER "EMERGENCY CASES" OR DOUBLE SETS.**

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**The Western Red-tailed Hawk Accommodates a Pacific Horned Owl In Assisting In Supplying a Complement of Eggs.**

---

I have, in my collection seven sets of eggs, or rather double sets of eggs, which seem of sufficient interest to publish in *The Oologist*.

1. Pacific Horned Owl and Western Red-tailed Hawk. Collected by J. S. Appleton, March 20, 1900, at Simi, Calif. One egg of the Owl and two of the Hawk, in a nest on a cliff where the Owls had nested for twelve years. The old Owl was on the nest when found. All three eggs fresh.

2. April 5, sixteen days later, the Owl was again sitting upon the nest which now contained one of the Hawk and two of her own eggs; incubation begun.

3. Western Grebe and American-eared Grebe. Four of the former and one of the latter in a nest constructed by the latter species. Collected by Gerard A. Abbott, at Devil's Lake, N. D., May 28, 1900. The American-eared Grebe occupying the nest at time of discovery.

4. Black-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Three eggs of the former and one of the latter. Collected by R. T. Anderson, Aylmer, Ont., Canada, June 8, 1897.

Mr. Anderson observed the nest each day, and the marks on the eggs indicate that the single egg of the latter species was the last one laid.

5. San Diego Song Sparrow and Anthony's Towhee (*Melospiza c. cooperi* and *Pipilo c. senicula*; according to Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," pages 367 and 437 respectively). Four of the former

and one of the latter. Collected by Harvey M. Hall, at Riverside, Calif., April 14, 1891. Both birds near the nest.

6. Bluebird and Carolina Chickadee; collected by a friend near Wayneburg, Pa., May 11, 1892.

The Chickadee had constructed a nest in a post and laid two eggs; the Bluebird built a nest of grass and rootlets on top of this and deposited five eggs, to which number the Chickadee added five more, probably at intervals between the laying of these of the Bluebird. All eggs were fresh. Both birds were near the nest post.

My friend damaged one of the eggs of the Chickadee in the top nest, and in attempting to secure the nest with the eggs crushed the two eggs in the under nest, not knowing of their presence.

7. Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bluebird. Collected by Thomas A. Smithwick, Merry Hill, N. C., April 26, 1891; four eggs of the former and one of the latter. Old Nuthatch on the nest at time.

J. Warren Jacobs.

Waynesburg, Pa.

March 1, 1920.

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**"Spring's Awakening."**

The welcome notes of spring ring from the woods and valleys in the early part of March. The Cardinals begin to sing their early morning song as the Titmouse answered in the distance. Crows cawed on their northern journey. As the sun begins to shine from over the hill tops the Plumbeous Chickadee was heard singing the day light, early morning spring song. It sounds to me like they were saying "We're here—Who are you?" Jumping around in the dead trees they examined every natural cavity and also the Woodpeckers' holes in search of a nesting site. I

was just finishing writing the above when I heard one of my corks pop in the water. I laid my note book down on the seat of the boat, and quickly pulled out a nice Croppie; re-baited and then kept my ears and eyes open for more birds. The Red-headed Woodpeckers were busy hammering away testing out their bills for the coming spring and breeding season. They made music while I fished. Glancing overhead a Flicker passed, going on about its business. Through the mixed blue and white clouds a Sharp-shinned Hawk darted and shrieked drowsily swinging back and fourth over the tree tops in search of a late sleeping bird. A Red-bellied Woodpecker pounded away on an old dead hollow tree near by, as if he was telling the Barn Owl that was inside, that it was daylight and he could go to sleep now if he could stand the racket he made.

As the sun peeped out occasionally between the clouds the birds became more plentiful and musical. Blue-birds which looked to be in pairs flew down and scattered in the frosty leaves and flew away to examine the woodpeckers holes in the dead timber.

A Kingfisher flew noisily by alighting on a overhanging tree to watch out of his morning meal.

Vultures circled back and forth over the rocky banks thinking that spring was near and that the rocky cliffs and bluffs make an ideal nesting site during March and April.

All the birds were happy and industrious until the man bird showed up; as the aeroplane purred over the tree tops all birds made away in the opposite direction, and as the birds had "vamoosed" and I had a pretty good vamoosed and I had a pretty good

string of croppies, I pulled in lines and hit it for camp.

Ramon Graham,  
Texas, 1920.

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#### A Fight.

Game Warden G. E. Maxon, and I were walking along a rocky bluff near the river and were surprised to see several Black Vultures fly from the ground. We went to where they flew from and there lay a half dead Turkey Vulture. This appeared to us that Black and Turkey Vultures do not get along very well.

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#### The Musical Buzzard.

The Buzzard that I reported some time ago, that flew back and forth with a bell tied to his neck, and ringing every time he flopped his wings, was also seen by a bird observer fifty miles below here. I also received a letter from a bird observer in Ohio that he had belled this Buzzard. It looks like to me that this Buzzard was taking quite a trip.

Ramon Graham  
Texas Notes, 1920.

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#### Winter Birds Around London, Ontario

The McIlwraith Ornithological Club, of London, Ontario, of which I am a member, has been getting out a list of all the birds seen around our city, each year, for the past ten or fifteen years. We are so situated that we can only do our field work on holidays, Saturday afternoons, and in the early spring mornings during the migrations of the birds. This year we started out on New Year's Day, and up to the 15th of February, we have a list of forty birds recorded. When one considers the severity of the weather this winter, and the depth of snow, and the number of species recorded is remarkable. The thermometer has hovered around the zero

mark for days at a time, and the snow fall has been the greatest in years, necessitating the use of snow shoes on nearly every trip. Last year with its mild winter and slight fall of snow (the least in years) the list was not nearly so great.

Following is our list from Jan. 1st to Feb. 15th:

Herring Gull  
 American Merganser  
 Black Duck  
 American Golden Eye  
 Ruffed Grouse  
 Cooper's Hawk  
 Red Shouldered Hawk  
 Long-eared Owl  
 Screech Owl  
 Kingfisher  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (first winter record)  
 Bluejay  
 American Crow  
 Red-winged Blackbird (second winter record)  
 Rusty Blackbird (first winter record)  
 Bronzed Grackle  
 Evening Grosbeak (very rare)  
 Pine Grosbeak  
 Purple Finch  
 American Crossbill (rare)  
 White-winged Crossbill (rare)  
 Redpoll  
 American Goldfinch  
 Pine Siskin (rare)  
 White-throated Sparrow (first winter record)  
 Snowflake  
 Tree Sparrow  
 Slate-colored Junco  
 Cardinal  
 Northern Shrike (rare)  
 Brown Creeper  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (rare)  
 Chickadee

Hudsonian Chickadee (a new record for here)

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Robin

Song Sparrow

J. R. McLeod,  
 Feb. 16, 1920. London, Ontario.

#### Albino English Sparrow.

October the fourth G. E. Maxon and myself was driving along the paved pike between Lake Worth and Ft. Worth, Texas, and we saw an English Sparrow that was white all over except his wings.

This article should have followed its introduction on page 26, second column, of last issue of The Oologist.

#### Banker Who Disappeared Found In Florida.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 1.—Charles J. Pennock, banker and former state ornithologist, who disappeared from his home in Kennett Square, Pa., six years ago, has been discovered through his love for birds, which led him to write an article for an ornithological journal under his own name. He was discovered living in the forests of Florida, where his only solace in his self-enforced exile was the companionship of his beloved birds.

He was laboring under the delusion that he must bury himself.

While he was in Florida he made his home at St. Marks, Fla., and was known as "John Williams." During all this time he continued his intensive study of the birds and this finally led him to write an article on the birds of that vicinity under his assumed name. This led to his discovery. Little did the editor know that his Florida correspondent "John Williams" of the past few years was in reality his old friend, Charles J. Pennock.

Let us all rejoice in his coming back to us and hope he has entirely recovered his health and that we may enjoy his contributions to these columns in the future as in the past.

# NOTICE !

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During 1920 the Oologist will publish advertisements only for the length of time for which they are paid for, and no longer.

If you want to get Birds' Skins, Eggs, Nests, or Mounted, or to dispose of the same, or to get or sell books relating to the same, we are the very best medium in America through which to secure or dispose of the same.

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ADVERTISE IN  
The Oologist

WANTED—Common sets of all kinds ornithological magazines, bird skins. Will pay reasonable prices. What have you? Will be in the Exchange market in spring. JOHNSON A. NEFF, P. O. Box 9, Marionville, Mo.

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This is an appeal to each one of our subscribers to pick out some likely young student of birds and send him “The Oologist” for 1920. Surely our older subscribers have interest enough in spreading the influence of this Journal to do this.

THE OOLOGIST.



# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 4.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 396



## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

EXCHANGE—Collection of North American Birds. Containing four hundred and twenty-three species and subspecies. Represented by thirteen hundred and sixty specimens. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Alry Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED—A pair of living Sand Hill Cranes A. O. U. No. 306, taken north of the center of the U. S. If the birds are only slightly wingtipped this will not matter. For them I will pay a good price. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTS SETS OF 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-305-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYLL, Maplewood, N. J.

Would like to Exchange bird Migration notes with observer in western state, preferably Montana. A. S. WARTHIN, Ferda Road, Ann Arbor, Mich.

FOR SALE—Bird Lore, 100 single, 13 odd volumes, \$1.25 each; Condor, vol. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and singles; Portraits of birds, Trumhull; Birds of Maine, Knights; Birds of Conn., Sage; Oologist, singles; The Warblers, 5 vols. Childs. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Conn.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

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M. J. Hofman—Taxidermist, Mounting to order from specimens in the flesh or dried scientific skins. Address 989 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

WANTED—American Ornithology, Vol. VI, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7; Ornithologist and Oologist, Vols. VI, VII complete; Vols. XI, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11; XII, 8, 9, 10, 11. Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith's Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition. Will pay cash or exchange. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine. 4-2013

THE BAILEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Newport News, Va., desires to secure through exchange or purchase, small mammal skins, and a collection of bird skins and eggs. Submit lists and price. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

EXCHANGE for Common Sets, Edison Phonograph and course in Taxidermy. Will buy Entire collections, large or small. Exchange in sets desired. M. B. WHEELER, East Randolph, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE—One York E. Flat Bass and 1 B Flat Tenor slide Trombone. I will buy, sell or exchange eggs in sets. M. B. WHEELER, East Randolph, N. Y.

EXCHANGE—"Insect Book," "Butterfly Book," "Moth Book," "Spider Book," "Shell Book," "Am. Food And Game Fishes," Ridgway's "Birds of Middle and North America," Vol. 1-5, for other nature books. Send lists. THEODORE GREER, Sheridan, Ill. Care F. R. A.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWELL, Willard, Mo.

WILL THE PERSON who has the first six volumes of the Auk, bound in Morocco, with the name of H. B. Bailey, on the blank page before the title page, and the first Vol. of the Auk, bound in Morocco with the book plate of Dr. D. E. Lantz in same, communicate with me. The whereabouts of these volumes should be easily located if the bird men will look at their copies. HAROLD H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va. 4-2013

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 4

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 396

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## THE NEW CATALOG

We are glad to announce that the work on the New Price List moves on apace. The Southern committee, Perry, Baynard and Bailey, have just sent in a report of their work. We hope the other divisions will be as prompt as possible, for goodness knows, we surely need a new price list of North American birds' eggs.—*The Editor.*

### Bird Parasitism

The rather elderly person whose name is subscribed, hereto, has become greatly interested in the phenomena of parasitism, with many birds. (One uses the term, "many birds," quite soberly; for the term covers a literal truth). There are now two distinct kinds of Parasitism, what we might call domiciliary-parasitism, and ovo-parasitism. Let us glance, briefly, at these, in turn.

With birds that nest in tree-hollows, it is quite natural that there should be more pairs of birds of several kinds, in a given locality, than there are available hollows. Hence there has arisen the cheerful spectacle of halcyon nestings, in close contiguity, of species most-unlike; and on the contrary the rather repulsive spectacle of bickerings without end, between aspirants for a summer home. Of the same character, involving violent usurpation, is the finding of eggs of sundry woodpeckers in the arid south-west, within cactus hollows in use by elf owls. Rarer, still, yet sometimes occurring, is the case of eggs of golden-eyes intruded into nest-hollows occupied by hooded mergansers. (In this connection, the writer cites a rare experience of his own, illustrating the persistence of the homing instinct, with many birds. Twice have I found an egg of the previous year with the fresh eggs in the nests of hooded mergansers, blew 'em, too!) Fairly incomprehensible, on any other hypothesis than that of sheer laziness, is the finding of intruded eggs in **external** nests, of various kinds. This is habitual, with both species of our easterly-breeding Cuckoos; and, of course, with the erratic and uncaring mourning dove. Often have I found a nest of the latter containing three eggs, one of them far less incubated than the others; while just once, here

in Kansas, did I find a nest on the ground with its norm of two eggs; and later turned aside to see the same nest, only to find it, to my surprise, containing, four eggs two of them quite fresh. I have also found, just once, an egg of the mourning dove in a nest of bronzed grackle. Inexplicable, yet entirely heart-warming, are the rare cases when robins and cuckoos have been found sitting, peacefully, side by side; on a hodge-podge of robin, cuckoo and, possibly, brown thrasher-eggs.

In the field of ovo-parasitism we find greater diversity. Rarely enough, the eggs of even three species have been found in the same nest, example, a cardinal nest, found by me, last summer, containing, beside the normal complement, an egg, each, of cowbird and cat bird. Ovo-parasitism is distinctly common, with all the fuliginous, and with some of the anatine, ducks. The records I have compiled are greatly interesting; and very voluminous. The redhead appears to be the commonest victim; and the canvas-back the ordinary aggressor. Of this sort of parasitism, innumerable cases are on record. I here set down one of my own: In a by-gone year, I spent several days about the borders of a grassy, meandering rush-filled lake of North Dakota. In those days there were ducks, a plenty. One sunny June morning, for illustration, I counted no less than seventy-five pintail drakes, all sunning themselves on the lake margin, amid the coverts. Mallards, pintails, shovellers and a very few green-winged teals were nesting beside that lake; with an occasional gadwall. Phalaropes were abundant; as also were winged teal. On my ways to and fro, between town and lake, I noted how frequent was my encounter with a very fussy female canvas-back. Always, at a certain



narrow coarse grass belt, I would encounter her, sometimes swimming about, under manifest agitation and quite as often winging, hysterically, over-head.

Determined, one day, to learn the reason why, my quest led into deep masses of marsh-growth, where mud and water were full three feet deep. Almost had I become tempted to give up the wearisome quest when, finally, the glint of something whitish amid the luxuriant grasses, aroused my deepest interest. And then, upon a bog, I found a deep, down-lined nest, with a slide into the water on the south side. In the nest were eight eggs, some of them clay color, some of them green, and in the water were other eggs, all of them red-head eggs. The red-head eggs were incubated; the canvas-back, fresh. No question, then, as to which bird had been the usurper. In the magazine files the interested student will find sundry similar settings down of curious composite "sets" of red-head, canvas-back, scaup, buffle-head, ruddy, eggs.

Of course, we all know much about the freaks engendered by cow-bird intrusions. Some of us, perhaps, have found evidence of arrant stupidity on the part of cowbirds. I once took a set of towhee eggs, in Northern Minnesota, only to find, two days later, two eggs of the northern cowbird in that otherwise empty nest. I have also found, quite counter to what some of the wise men have said, a very few host-nests containing eggs of the host that were nearer to hatching than those of the parasite. Most of us are aware that some of the larger species of smaller birds are more frequent cowbird hosts than others. Is this, one wonders, a matter of temperament, of a larger, more good-natured toleration?

Again, how many of us have noted

that the Song Sparrow never seems to lose any of its own eggs, as a rule, even upon the intrusion of two, or even three, cowbird eggs into their nests? (The same is sometimes true of the common towhee). A conspicuous example of the greater frequency with which the nests of some one species of host is intruded upon, than others. I have found in the case of observations made by a correspondent of mine, a high-bred Hollander, who, poor fellow, went the way of all tubercular flesh, after a sojourn in Oaxaca, Mexico. He found the local form of the red-eyed cowbird almost uniformly parasitic upon the local towhee, *Pipilo rutilis*. Every set of these beautiful eggs, as I now remember, was accompanied by one or two eggs of the red-eye.

Akin to the parasitic habit is that of co-nesting. This is a habit prevailing, apparently, with but a few species. Of course, it is not strange that it should be found, occasionally, maintaining with domesticated species, as when, for instance, I once found amicably side by side on fourteen eggs, my two young hen-turkeys sitting. Of the same purport, that of co-operation, is the rare habit evinced by, for example, the hawk owl, both birds of a devoted pair sometimes incubating side by side. One would greatly like to urge upon younger bird students an awakened and a persistent habit of introspective study of these, and of kindred phenomena in the great bird-world. Just as soon as we shall have found ourselves interested in the economic and social relations between various species of birds, and shall have become fascinatingly absorbed in the study of bird-psychology, as most-strikingly manifested in the reproductive period, we shall then, and then only, have found the great, delicious secret of super-interest. And when



added to this habit of observation we shall also have joined the habit of veracious and conscientious chronicling, we shall have begun to show ourselves really bird students; and not merely hoggish amassers of material. Isn't this all richly worth the while?

P. B. Peabody.



JOHN H. FLANAGAN

Prominent Attorney, Former Solicitor  
of Town of Warwick, Dead in  
His 52nd Year.

The Evening Bulletin, Feb. 24, 1920.  
—John H. Flanagan, prominent attorney here for many years, former Warwick Town Solicitor and a law partner of John Doran before the latter be-

came justice of the Superior Court, died last night at his home, 89 Power street. He was 51 years old and had been ill since last November. Cerebral hemorrhage caused his death.

Next to legal affairs bird life appealed most to Mr. Flanagan. He was an expert ornithologist, was Bird Commissioner for Providence county and chairman of the board from 1905 to 1908, when he declined reappointment, and had one of the best private collections of eggs in this section of the country. He had also been secretary of the Bird Commission for several years.

The American Ornithological Union claimed him as one of its most interested members. He was in the Providence Fish and Game Association, the Franklin Lyceum, of which he was a lecturer, and the Providence Gun Club. Mr. Flanagan was also a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association and its executive board, the Catholic Club and the Athenaeum.

He was born July 7, 1868, in Cranston, and lived the greater part of the time, prior to being admitted to the bar in 1894, in Apponaug. He was a graduate of La Salle, and a member of the executive board of that institution. In 1892, he was graduated from Manhattan College, and the Harvard Law School three years later.

He studied law in the offices of Edwin D. McGuinness, who was at the time Mayor of Providence, and a partner of John Doran. Upon the death of Mr. McGuinness in 1901, the firm of Doran & Flanagan was established. Mr. Flanagan continued the practice of law alone, following the election of his partner as judge.

He is survived by a sister, Josephine A., and three brothers, Edward J., Thomas L., and Dr. William F. Flanagan.

### Cow Bird Notes From Virginia

Previous to the opening of the great European War, the cow bird was quite a scarce breeder in Virginia and my oological sets seldom were overburdened with these parasite eggs. Long before the entry of the U. S. into the conflict, Newport News was selected as a shipping point for horses and mules by the French and British governments and later by our government and some 550,000 horses and mules were shipped across. This industry naturally called for a large acreage in corrals and around the feeding trough for oats, which were fed as short feed to these animals, congregated during the winter months, thousand of winter cowbirds. The extreme cold winter of 1917 and 1918 drove many thousand of these birds into this excellent feeding ground and they remained well into the spring, before breaking up.

Most of the horses and mules that were on hand when the Armistice was signed were sold soon afterwards and with them disappeared the greater part of the Cow birds. I was much interested, however, in seeing if a greater number of eggs would be found in this section owing to the great influx of these birds. In this I was not disappointed for during the past season, nearly all small nests found contained one or more eggs of this parasite bird. While my egg collection was enriched by several new species containing cowbirds' eggs, the community has been the loser for they destroyed many nice nests and sets, and the cowbirds reared, took the place of many beneficial birds.

Harold H. Bailey,  
Newport News, Va.

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### The Maryland Yellow Throat

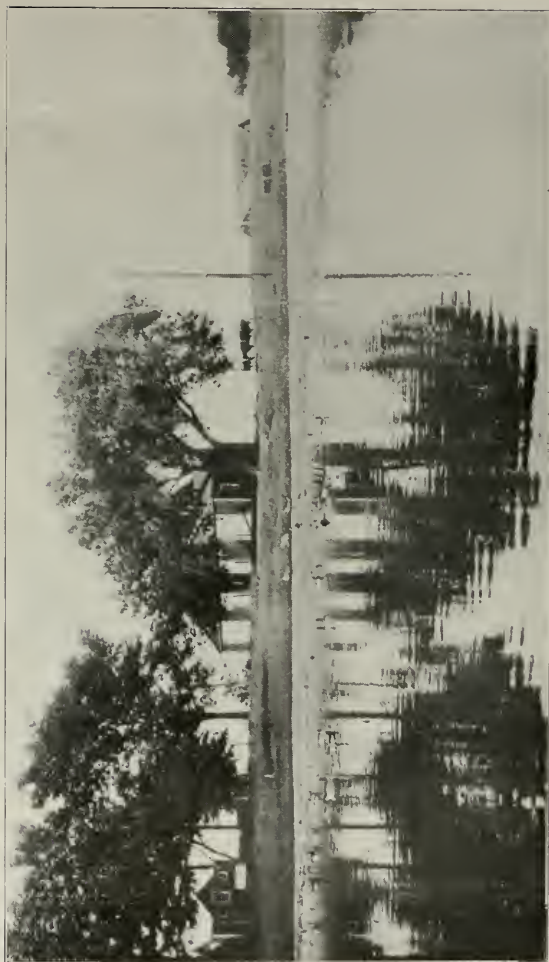
One day last June in mid-summer, a light rain set in. After dinner it

still rained by spells but it was so quiet and warm that I concluded that it would be a good stunt to go out on a certain good sized mountain stream nearby and take a good thorough wetting for the privilege of catching a mess of trout. When trout fishing a person must go slow and carefully and must often spend some time at deep pools trying to tickle the palate of the big fellows.

Because of his slow progress a trouterman often sees interesting birds, nests, and animals. Among other things I have come upon mink, coon, rattlesnakes and porcupines and on some occasions deer and have discovered some mighty interesting nests such as Winter Wren, Canadian, Mourning and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

On this particular afternoon while going through some heavy buck laurel in the hemlocks to get behind a tree on the edge of a deep pool I flushed a bird off its nest. This nest was 20 inches up in the top of a low cluster of laurels. It was a bulky nest of grass and the four eggs were spotted and wreathed. It looked more like a Mourning Warbler's nest than anything I could think of, so I sat down, and in a few minutes the female returned. Owing to the shade and the state of the weather and the fact that she kept low down in the laurels I could not identify her and she didn't look just right for a Mourner.

Several days later on a clear sunny day I returned and was surprised to find a Yellow-throat at home. It certainly pays to positively identify all finds. The Yellowthroat is one of our commonest and best distributed warblers in the summer and is found everywhere in bushy or weedy places. It is one of the common birds in the slashings and on the fire swept barrens and



Wild Fowl at Home.—Photo by V. Lane

huckleberry ridges it is one of the few birds to be found.

It is entirely absent in heavy growth. It nests on the ground and in low brush. Its eggs 4 to 5 in number are marked only by a few dark dots about the larger end.

This particular Yellowthroat's nest differs entirely from the ordinary Yellowthroat's nests in being in laurel in quite heavy hemlock timber. The nest was larger than usual and the eggs unusually large. It is the only set of Yellowthroats that I ever found that was spotted and wreathed. They arrive the first week in May and depart late in September. Very often they are imposed upon by the Cowbird.

R. B. Simpson,  
Warren, Pa.

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## TWO DAYS AFIELD

### The First in the District of Columbia and the Second in New Jersey; A Comparison.

On the morning of April 16th, 1916, Mr. B. S. Taubenhauß and myself left the 33d Street Station of the Pennsylvania R. R. at 12:20 a. m. for the purpose of gathering information regarding the status of the migratory aspect of the section of the District of Columbia, south of the Potomac River, and on the 17th I canvassed the territory in New Jersey in Upper Passaic County, thereby securing a fairly good comparison between the two sections. The principal object of this comparison was largely to determine the elapse of time between the time certain species were present in the Virginia counties and their arrival at the point of observations in Upper New Jersey. Daily canvasses were made up to the 30th, in the section of Upper Passaic County, for the purpose of checking up on the dates of arrival and obtained some fairly re-

liable data on this point of comparison and elapsed time.

The trip from New York City to Baltimore, Md. was uneventful, but on reaching the latter city the dawn had occurred and from the car windows numerous Flickers, Crows, Purple Grackles and Robins were observed while enroute from Baltimore to the city of Washington.

While in Washington we had traversed along Delaware Ave. to S. W. B. street, thence to 14th street and to the Long Bridge over the Potomac. While thus walking we observed a colony of Purple Martins (10) at a colony house adjacent to a fire house on Delaware Ave. Numerous Tufted Titmice and Song Sparrows were present in the city, as well as numerous Robins and Purple Grackles. A single Hermit Thrush was observed on S. W. B. street. While crossing the bridge two Herring Gulls, seven Franklin Gulls and a Fish Crow were observed.

On our arrival on the Virginia shore, we followed the Alexandria Road to the Columbia Turnpike passing through Jackson City, and Arlington Junction. Thence along the Columbia Turnpike through Arlington to Barcroft. Thence along the Leesburg Turnpike over Munson and Upton Hills to Falls Church. Thence to Torrison, Ballston, Clarendon, Fort Myer, Rosslyn, Arlington National Cemetery to Arlington Junction and finally to the Long Bridge, the point of beginning. This itinerary included a goodly portion of Alexandria County and a small portion of Fairfax County, Virginia.

The total number of species observed during the day included forty, as will be determined by the following list, which bears notes regarding their abundance and point of observation:



Herring Gull. Two were observed along the shore of the Potomac, near Jackson City.

Crow. Common at all points visited and throughout the day.

Robin. Common at all points.

Purple Grackle. Common at all points.

Song Sparrow. Common at all points.

Flicker. Common at all points.

Hermit Thrush. One observed in Arlington, near roadside, and which was the only one observed in Virginia.

Tufted Titmouse. Observed and heard in every point visited.

Savanna Sparrow. One in a swamp near Jackson City and one near Barcroft.

Kingfisher. One at Jackson City and one at Rosslyn.

Osprey. One at Jackson City and two near Arlington National Cemetery during late afternoon.

Cardinal. A pair at Jackson City, a pair at Arlington, a pair at Barcroft and a pair at Munson Hill. In every case the males were in full song.

Cowbird. One at Jackson City.

Redwings. One at Jackson City and four at Rosslyn.

Carolina Wren. One male in full song at Jackson City.

Meadowlark. Common at every point visited.

Mourning Dove. A pair at Arlington and another pair at Ballston.

Bluebird. Common at all points.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Two in Arlington.

Bronzed Grackle. Ten observed during day.

Junco. Common at all points.

Mockingbird. About twenty-five individuals were observed between Arlington and Rosslyn, and in each case were in full song.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. One at Arlington.

Turkey Vulture. One appeared at Arlington.

Cedar Waxwing. Three at Arlington.

Yellow Palm Warbler. Five at Arlington and five at Torrison.

White-throated Sparrow. Five in Ballston and two in Rosslyn.

Goldfinch. Five observed during day.

Vesper Sparrow. One at Ballston and four more at Upton Hill.

Brown Thrasher. Six at Upton Hill. Towhee. One at Upton Hill and one at Rosslyn.

Phoebe. Two at Torrison and five at Rosslyn.

Wilson Thrush. One near Arlington National Cemetery.

Swamp Sparrow. Five appeared near Torrison.

Tree Swallow. Five at Torrison.

Purple Finch. Five at Torrison and four at Ballston.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Two at Arlington National Cemetery.

Broad-winged Hawk. Four near the Cemetery.

On our return over the Long Bridge we observed a Laughing Gull and two Pied-bill Grebes, and while enroute on the train back to New York City, we observed on a small inlet of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, what appeared to be five more of the Pied-bills.

Among the other forms of natural life which were observed this day were the Cabbage Butterfly, a few Mourning-cloaks and one Purple Skipper. A pair of Spotted Turtles were found mating, and the Green Pond Frogs were rather abundant in the moist sections. The peach, pear and cherry were in full bloom, the spicebush, crocus, daffodil, seal, tulip and myrtle were in full inflorescence and several friebushes in bud ready to open.



On the morning of April 17th, the writer undertook this comparison alone and journeyed Bloomfield, N. J. to Singac (Passaic County), after which he canvassed Wayne, Pequannock, Pompton Plains, Pompton, around Pompton Lake, Lakes village, Bloomingdale and Butler, all in Upper Passaic County, and observed the following species: Robin, Starling, Song Sparrow, Purple Grackle, Flicker, Meadowlark, White-throated Sparrow, Redwings, Tree Swallow, Bluebird, Field Sparrow, American Crow, Goldfinch, Yellow Palm Warbler, Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Myrtle Warbler, Chimney Swift, and Bank Swallow, all quite common. The following were also observed, but in numbers as appears after each species: Phoebe (5), Downy Woodpecker (5), White-breasted Nuthatch (1), Purple Finch (2), Kingfisher (5), Blue Jay (10), Chickadee (5), Tufted Titmouse (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Sparrow Hawk (1), Osprey (3), over Pompton Lake. Mourning Dove (2), Chewink (5), Pied-bill Grebe (1), Black Duck (1), and Catbird (1). The record of Catbird is the earliest that the writer had ever secured on this species in Northern New Jersey.

By comparison of these two lists the reader will observe wherein numerous species, which are common in Northern New Jersey on this latter day, were rather uncommon in the former list. For instance the Field Sparrow was common in New Jersey and not to be found in Virginia. The Tree Swallow was common at the northerly section but in Virginia only five were observed along the Potomac. No Catbirds were observed on the 16th, but one was found on the 17th. Tufted Titmice were common in Virginia and only one was observed in New Jersey. Thus I might go ahead and draw numerous other compari-

sons but I am quite sure the reader will be able to draw these for himself.

Louis S. Kohler,  
Hawthorne, N. J.

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#### The Starling and Its Depredations.

During the summer of 1919, the Starling were very numerous in and about Hawthorne, N. J. In fact, more so than in any other previous year. When the common red currant began to ripen numerous of these birds gathered about the bushes and played havoc with them, destroying about forty per cent of the yield. Later when the cherries were at their height, much damage was inflicted by these exotics. But the greatest harm of all occurred at the time the garden peas were just appearing through the earth. Each morning on arising shortly before sunrise, it was necessary for my wife and I to scatter these marauders and to keep at it throughout the day to save our crop. We tried all manner of frightening devices, but these birds cared little for these and the result was that four successive plantings were completely destroyed by them. The strawberries and grapes were not attacked and we were quite thankful for this, but the loss of the other crops was a rather serious handicap. It is my opinion and, I believe this to be general in this section, that the sooner we are rid of these birds the better we will be off as regards our garden truck. Every farmer that I have talked to realizes the importance of preserving our native birds but does not want any more of these exotics as pests.

Louis S. Kohler,  
Hawthorne, N. J.

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#### A Few Notes From the A. E. F.

When I went to France with the Marines, I had no bird guide with me, and while over there I could not find

in the stores a popular priced work in English about the birds. So, such birds as I learned to know in France, I simply recollected from my former reading.

One of my first acquaintances was the robin, though to us the name of robin sounds strange when we use it to speak of the red-breast of Europe. In disposition it seemed amiable, solitary, and whenever I saw it I always thought of a line I read in an old book: "A bush contains but one robin."

The rooks were very common in northern France last winter, but I did not see any in southern France during the summer months. Of course one which everybody interested in birds looked for was the nightingale, and I was anxious to hear its song. The natives seem to think it is the only bird worth hearing. I, myself, was not greatly impressed with it. However, I am not a competent judge in such matters, and the nightingale's reputation will suffer none because of my opinion. For my part though, I would rather listen to some of our Thrushes, in a quiet nook of American woodland.

My real favorite of the birds over there was the skylark. After a cold spring night on guard duty, and when the East is flushed with the first light of morning, it is worth while listening to this cheerful singer high in air. I shall mention another bird which should be last and least: this, the much detested house sparrow. He is careless about his appearance, and he does not keep his quarters clean—to use a rather military expression.

I have seen the screech owl—or what I supposed to be such—flying at dusk and in twilight. Rapacious birds, though, seem to be rather scarce. There is a little brightly-colored hawk which may be a sparrow

hawk but he seems to have more pluck and dash than our bird of this name, and he is the terror of the smaller birds as they cower in the copse, when he is about.

If the French have any laws for the protection of birds, they are certainly very lax in the enforcement of them, as the people seem to shoot whatever birds they please. The birds seem to thrive more through the general indolence of the populace, than through any special effort to protect them.

C. W. Pelton,  
Jonesburgh, Mo.

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#### Cape May Warbler in New Jersey

On May 19, 1916, I observed my first Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). On this morning, as had been my usual practice for twelve years prior to this date, I canvassed the entire length of Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J. and was fortunate enough to encounter this species near the band-stand in the section between Bloomfield Avenue and Park Avenue in the low shrubbery which borders the walk. Only one male was present of this species and remained in this park throughout the day. On this same morning the Maryland Yellowthroat, Redstart, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Canadian Warbler, Wilson Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm and Pine Warblers were also present, making in all a very excellent day for the Mniotiltidae.

On May 18th, 1919, in a copse of woods at Hawthorne, N. J., I saw my second specimen of the Cape May Warbler. This latter bird was also the only one which could be found on this day, although it is quite possible there were others of the same species present as the shrubbery, lower and upper halves of the trees were fairly

alive with the different Mniotiltidae. I made observations daily in this copse of woodland from May 1st to 30th, 1919, and only was able to find species of the Wood Warblers on the 6th, 10th, 18th and 25th, the other days they being very conspicuous because of their absence.

During the coming migration season of 1920 I again intend to spend some portion of each day during the period between April 15th and May 31st, in this same locality and will at the end of this period draw up an article showing the comparative dates of arrival of the Mniotiltidae which I am quite sure the readers of the Oologist will be glad to see.

Louis S. Kohler,  
Hawthorne, N. J.

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### Black Snake

In No. 6, Vol. XXXV, Mr. W. H. H. Baker, from Harvey, Ia. tells us of a black snake adventure. Although I cannot report how this serpent managed to reach its perch, permit me to narrate several facts regarding similar "Black Snake stunts," which might be of interest to the readers.

This species of snake indeed is a very able tree climber. A friend of mine has repeatedly seen an at least six foot specimen of this reptile that has his haunts on his farm which is about a mile from my home. Never, however, has he been able to corner it,—for curiosity's sake,—for as soon as he puts in an appearance she heads for a large tree in the woods, and disappears in the crown with amazing rapidity. With his repeated chances were plentiful of putting an end to her sojourn, but claiming this specie's usefulness, (I cannot verify his claim as to that), he refrained from doing so, I may add here that this part of St. Louis Co., is rather hilly, and lavishly covered with woods, creeks

and rivers, a welcome haunt to the naturalist.

In another instance a boy had climbed to a telephone post with no intent. At the height of twenty feet, a Woodpecker's home had struck his eye, and he designed to relieve the pecker's better half of her duties. As it was somebody had beat this urchin's time, for no sooner had he thrust his nimble fingers in the orifice to grasp the coveted eggs, he extracted them again, with preposterous celerity, a three foot black snake attached to his mischievous fingers. This serpent dropped down immediately upon its removal from the hole, and made a getaway. Descending the post was accomplished in two shakes, and the words he uttered came from no Sunday School vocabulary. Let us hope this incident inclined the youngster to become a bird friend instead of a bird fiend.

At another time several acquaintances noticed a few Martins clamoring about their abode—a box at the top of a fifteen foot sleek pole. Upon closer investigation it was found that a two and a half foot black snake had ascended this very pole in order to make a meal of the fledglings. The reptile's blood thirst had been quenched, and his stomach had been appeased but the beast had made no allowance for the infuriated embryo farmers. After many futile attempts Nemesis reached the nest robbers.

Lastly, in the church yard of this borough I found the cast off skin of a black snake in the crotch of a maple tree, seven feet from the ground. This has been garment is three feet seven inches long. The diameter of the tree is approximately one and a half foot.

H. A. Insinger,  
Valley Park, Mo.

### "Ornithological Acquaintances."

While on an overland trip to South Texas, during January I stopped over in Austin, our state capitol. There I had the pleasure of meeting several men who are doing a lot to save and protect the birds of this state. I first went to see Mr. Sterret, state game, fish and oyster commissioner. I was greeted in a very cordial manner. (Although from my appearance, being in collection clothes, you would have suspected that I was a hobo).

Mr. Sterret impressed me as a man who not only was a good official, but was a nature lover also. He talked about collecting and birds in a manner of one that knew what he was speaking of. And also directed me to where I could locate a nest of Bald Eagles in San Angelo county, with a zest of one who takes greatest interest in birds. He assured me that he had sent me a permit to collect and at the same time had the thoroughness to warn me against collecting quail eggs.

The next man that I met was Mr. J. W. Neil, director of institutes, state department of agriculture, with whom I talked for quite a while. He seemed to be well versed in bird lore and to take a great interest in the birds of our state, having wrote several impressive articles, pleading for their preservation.

He told me of the plans on foot for the publication of all the material that the U. S. Biological survey has collected on the birds of Texas. I think that it would be a most valuable addition to the publication of birds in this state, as here are no real good books on the birds of Texas. The publication of this bulletin would require an appropriation of about ten thousand dollars, from the state legislature.

And I suggest that all the ornithologist of this state, should combine and

write the representatives of the state legislature, urging them to advocate the passage of this bill.

I then went out to visit Mr. George Finley Simmons who although a young man, is now a professor in the state university. Mr. Simmons is now engaged in the writing of a bulletin for the state on the birds of central Texas, which will be most helpful.

He offered to take me out and show me some good collecting grounds, but as my time was limited, I did not go out with him.

Dr. Elton Perry and Deloach Martin are two that I did not have the pleasure of meeting, but with whom I certainly would have liked to have gotten acquainted.

Jake Zeitlin,  
905 Bryan Ave.,  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

### Hawk and Squirrel

While out on a hawking trip this spring I came to a Hawk's nest in an elm tree near a small creek. It was up in the top branches and after a climb I found that they had not laid yet. But the birds were observed close by. After giving it a close examination I found a squirrel's nest cozily built right under the Hawk's nest in the same fork. So this appeared to me that they were living close together.

Ramon Graham.

### Hawk and Wild Cat

While collecting along the Mexican Border I came upon an extra large Hawk's nest. I was looking it over deciding to climb it when out jumped a wild cat. This was a surprise to me so I turned to shoot and he disappeared in the dense prickly pear thickets.

Ramon Graham.



# NOTICE !

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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 397



## THE OOLOGIST

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 5

ALBION, N. Y., MAY 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 397

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

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Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## YE EDITOR

The latter part of March the editor, Mr. Barnes, got much better and started to return to his regular work. A few days at the office however, overtaxed his strength and April 4th he suffered a violent relapse. For a time he was a seriously and dangerously sick man. However after a consultation of four specialists it was again determined to perform a second operation on the affected ear. This was done and since then the patient has been slowly getting better. At this writing, April 20th, he is still confined to his bed but with a promise of being permitted to sit up in a chair soon for a short time each day.

We are doing the best we can with *The Oologist* in the meantime and crave the assistance of the friends of the little journal who have its good near to heart. We need copy, short notes, and will truly appreciate all the assistance received, as it is sorely needed until "Ye Editor" can again resume his usual activities.—Virginia Lane.

**ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS  
OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.**

Brooke County is the southernmost county of West Virginia's panhandle. Along its entire western side runs the Ohio river, from whose immediate banks the hills of the lesser Blue Ridge ranges rise. The whole county is hilly; part of it rather gently rolling, but a great deal of it broken up by deep ravines and narrow gorges. A person's feelings after jaunting through these hills for a day quite faithfully attest to their height and ruggedness. Bald, outstanding cliffs are unusual, and at only one place, three miles east of Wellsburg, do they attain any considerable height. Near the border line of Ohio county on the south there are also very rugged hillsides and a large area covered with interesting upstanding boulders, which suggest a glacial origin, though I understand they are merely the products of erosion. A great deal of the tillable land is in use, especially in the valleys and on the more gentle hill slopes, but possibly quite an equal amount has not been cultivated, so that much of the forest is primeval, and naturally conducive to an abundance of bird life. Marshy land is almost entirely absent, and naturally so with the land so thoroughly drained. However, there are small suggestions of swamps along Juerdon Run, to the northwest of Bethany, and there are small sedge rimmed ponds of an ephemeral type near West Liberty. These small places have been watched with great care in hopes that members of the Rallidae would be discovered, but the searches have been for the most part fruitless. It should be borne in mind, however, that there are swampy lands directly bordering the medium sized streams. Buffalo Creek, for instance, which runs through the county and joins the Ohio at Wells-

burg, is quite swampy at certain seasons of the year and at favorable places. A lack of the swamp loving birds in the following list may be partly accounted for by this evident lack of their favorite habitat. The creeks are usually swift flowing, narrow, and of short length, originating in springs on the hillsides and tumbling down through shaded rocky glens. There are numerous beautiful falls; none especially high, but many of interesting structure.

The trees of the region are almost entirely deciduous. Hemlocks seem to have found quite a footing on some of the higher hills, however, and are quite common in restricted areas. The beech is notably a common species in the more open woodland, and there are handsome growths of oak, particularly near Bethany. Basswood trees are not unusual and elm fringe the creeks along with sycamores and willows. Small bushy elms often make a very thick tangle along a low bank. Buckeye trees with their clusters of spring blossoms are at once noticeable and attractive, and species of ash and maple abound in some areas. Old apple orchards are common on the gentle hillsides and on top of the lower hills, the summer berries are common and general in distribution, and are very inviting to many of the summer residents. The stock of winter berries is not so plentiful. The absence of chestnut trees is noteworthy, tho walnuts and hickories are quite plentiful. The birds with a taste for nuts all depend upon the beech woods for their supply, seemingly. Some of the most beautifully animated scenes I have witnessed have been among the beech woods, where the squirrels and birds were a-nutting.

The climate of the county is for the most part very pleasant. The winters are rarely very long and snows of



over two feet in depth have of late been considered very rare. During most of the winters the creeks are open and merry most of the season, and occasionally the winters are scarcely cold. Fickle sallies of the weather are common, however, such as a violent snow flurry on the first of May or the middle of April.

Weather conditions do not play such an important part with the bird life here as do their enemies among the animal kingdom, however. Just how much the snakes of the county affect the bird life is impossible to say, but it is certain that snakes are wondrously abundant. A warm summer will bring dozens of them out to bask on the trunks and roots along the shores of the creeks; and it is not unusual to see as many as fifteen drop into the water from the branches upon some disturbance of their basking tree. Black snakes, which occur more commonly among the wooded hillsides certainly do some damage, though possibly a negligible quantity. Several times I have discovered them near or at nests and twice I have taken them away just before their intended meal. I remember especially one snake which was entwined about the low built nest of a wood thrush, in which were four young birds. The parent birds were making a furious commotion, dashing carelessly back and forth over the snake and snapping their bills vehemently. Their attacks evidently kept the snake from his meal until I got there, and of course, I suspended his further operations. It was gratifying how quickly the anxiety of the birds subsided when the snake was put out of commission, even though I had my hands on the youngsters.

Of course the towns and farms are not free from the roving house cats which do considerable damage, no doubt, though I have not kept a sys-

tematic record of their inroads. The accipitrine hawks are not common enough to be a serious menace, nor are the great horned owls. Judging from the nests I have kept under observation the birds do not suffer greatly from the ravages of the predatory wild animals, either, though they certainly cause some trouble, since weasels, skunks and raccoons are not rare. The red squirrel, which may be such a menace to its bird neighbors, apparently does not occur. Notable, however, is the bronzed grackle as an enemy of the smaller birds during the nesting period. For successive seasons I have watched them and their nest robbing proclivities are surely as pronounced as those of the blue jay, which is strikingly rare in the county. Often, when I have heard the birds scolding some robber, I have expected to find a cat or screech owl, but have been surprised and a bit ashamed to find the offender a grackle. I kept a record of their mischief one spring, and no less than fourteen nests of small birds were attacked and in some cases ruined, by the grackles. Twice I have seen a grackle flying across the college campus at Bethany, with a robin or wood thrush egg in his bill. The robins are quick and relentless in attacking any grackle within blocks, though I am inclined to think that the habit is individualistic with the grackles, rather than characteristic of the species.

With this rather abbreviated discussion of the environment it may be seen that conditions are favorable to an interesting bird life even though the monotony of the country lessens the number of marsh, lake and conifer loving species.

The following list contains the species recorded during a period of residence at Bethany, from July, 1914, to June, 1919.

### 1. Horned Grebe

One specimen was shot in January, 1916, on Buffalo Creek. The hunter stated that he had shot the same species before several times, but he may easily have confused his birds with the pied billed sepcies. There are two mounted specimens at Follansbee, however, in the nuptial plumage, which from all I can gather, were secured on the Ohio river some years ago. A rather close observer of birds was fortunate enough to watch an individual of this species swim, dive and sport about in the water at the remarkable distance of about six feet. The bird was identified by its scarlet eyes.

### 2. Pied Billed Grebe

Seemingly of rather regular occurrence even in the smaller creeks. One specimen in my collection was shot on Oct. 23, 1916, practically in the town of Bethany. I have noted the bird several times in the deeper pools along the creek. As is common with the family the specimens I have collected have had their stomachs full of their own feathers.

### 3. Loon 4

A rather remarkable capture of this species took place in one of the quieter stretches of Castleman's Run. The bird, having settled on the water at night was swimming about calmly when an early farmer passed. The loon finding diving impossible in the shallow water tried to rise, but could not since there was not a long enough stretch of deep water. The bird was killed and brought in shortly afterward. Loons have been captured on the Ohio also. I understand that the whole of the Ohio river is considered as part of West Virginia, so that Ohio river records are records for this state.

### 4. Am. Herring Gull

A hard storm in the winter of 1911 brought a lone gull to a farm house near Bethany. By close comparison of saved primary feathers, I judged this bird to have been of this species. Gulls sometimes appear irregularly along the Ohio, but I have not ascertained the species. I have no positive record for any species of Tern.

### 5. Red Breasted Merganser

A wounded female was secured in the winter of 1916. This species must surely occur on the Ohio at times, but I have no such records,—partly, perhaps because so much of my available time was spent in the interior of the county.

### 6. Hooded Merganser

As a surprise to me this species is one of the most regular and common water birds on Buffalo Creek. Small active flocks appeared every winter. One beautiful specimen was secured on April 5,—a male in perfect condition. In the fall of the same year a female, which was by herself was secured, and a wounded female was discovered the following spring in a small artificial pond. A flock of six individuals remained near town for an extended visit shortly after the capture of this specimen.

### 7. Mallard

Ducks are anything but common along the smaller creeks and are never abundant even on the Ohio, but the Mallards appear in migrations, and may be found in occasional bunches of three or four. One pair of Mallards remained very late in the spring of 1916, and I feel confident that they would have nested had not the male been shot.

### 8. Gadwall

An interesting specimen of this rather rare species was brought to me on April 4, 1916. It was shot from a

flock of about ten birds, at a wide place in Buffalo Creek. The bird has the general appearance of a hybrid though she has all the characteristics of the female Gadwall. It is doubtful that the birds of the flock were of the same species as the specimen captured.

#### 9. Baldpate

Occurs occasionally. The wing feathers served to identify a specimen shot on a small creek near Independence in 1914.

#### 10. Blue Winged Teal

This species nested along the banks of Juerdon Run in the spring of 1912, and I was fortunate enough to see the remains of one of the young birds which was raised in captivity. Doubtless the species will nest if the conditions are favorable. The green winged variety has not appeared in the county as far as I know. A flock of about twenty blue wings remained near Bethany for some time in August of 1915. The size of the flock which indicated a brood of the year suggests that a pair may have nested close at hand. An immature bird, presumably of the year was secured from this flock, and but one adult male was seen in the group.

#### 11. Pintail

Feathers of specimens shot near Wellsburg make the recording of this species possible.

#### 12. Bufflehead

A pair of these were shot near Bethany in the spring of 1917. The heads of both birds were brought to me for identification.

#### 13. Canada Goose

A huge gander was brought to me for mounting in the winter of 1915. It was said that he was a straggler from a flock that dropped down to a pond on a farm near Independence. Flocks pass over as migrants regularly.

#### 14. Whistling Swan

I have this record on a specimen in the collection of Bethany College. The bird there was killed twenty-five years ago, on Wallace Run, about three miles from West Liberty. It was incorrectly labelled 'Trumpeter Swan.'

#### 15. Am. Bittern

A specimen was shot at Bethany in 1912. It is preserved. I recorded one in 1914. It is evidently very rare.

#### 16. Great Blue Heron

Regular summer resident. A lone pair nested far up in the wooded recesses of Castleman's Run, and it is likely that they still nest there. The parent birds came regularly each evening during the summer to Buffalo Creek. Two specimens were killed in the fall of 1918.

#### 17. Green Heron

Very common summer resident. I located two colonies of these birds; one in a willow growth directly bordering Buffalo Creek, and another about a quarter of a mile from water in an old apple orchard. This latter one had about thirty nests and I made interesting studies of the old and young during my frequent visits. The awkward young were found clinging in all sorts of attitudes in the branches or propped on weak legs in their scant nests. They looked like feathered skeletons as they tried to maintain their equilibrium on the swaying branches, all in marked contrast to the grace of the adults which came with food.

#### 18. Black Crowned Night Heron

A large flock of these flew over Bethany one evening. They were identified primarily by their unique note. The species has not been shot here, however, so far as I can ascertain.

#### 19. Virginia Rail

There is a specimen in the Bethany

College collection, secured in 1899. It is the only certain record I have.

#### 20. Sora

Quite common and regular in migration. One specimen in my collection met a common fate of rails when he collided with a telephone wire. What fun I have had chasing the evasive little fellows through the matted vegetation of the creek side! I remember one in particular that I just chanced to detect as it glided among the water plants. I dashed after him full tilt, whereupon he also dashed, and, being hard pressed to an open water front, took wing and dropped into an impenetrable mass of weeds about fifteen feet away. Gone, you bet!

#### 21. King Rail

A large handsome rail, quite surely of this species was flushed from the weeds by the combined efforts of six of us fellows who literally beat him out of his cover. The specimen was not secured.

#### 22. Coot

Common irregularly. A bird was picked up exhausted near a cement walk in Bethany in the spring of 1915. I had him in captivity for a day or two, after which time he got loose and flew easily and directly over the housetops and away. Another individual was run into a musk-rat burrow, and there captured.

#### 23. Am. Woodcock

Reported to have nested formerly, but I have found no nests. However, I recorded the species in the summer of 1917, in a most likely nesting place, and there was another there in the summer of 1918. Three specimens were sent in by hunters during my residence in the county.

#### 24. Yellowlegs

Recorded once on April 30, 1916. It was unusually tame, and permitted a close approach. When we came too

near it waded out into the swift ripples up to its belly, and then took reluctant wing. With a volley of clear whistles it wheeled about and alighted nearer than before, after which it left for good.

#### 25. Solitary Sandpiper

This species has presented a baffling problem to me. Strangely enough my notes show that I have seen it repeatedly in the spring and all during the summer months,—never but once, a pair together, and almost invariably near a certain low pasture field. It seems a bit outlandish to consider it a nester and yet I shall not be much surprised if it proves to be such. The bird is peculiarly clean cut and graceful in its flight, and is one of the most elegant and refined little fellows of his tribe, dainty in every pose.

#### 26. Bartramian Sandpiper

Recorded three times; once in mid-summer. For one who knows the call of the 'plover' on the Texas prairies, this bird in a northern clime has a strange enchantment.

#### 27. Killdeer

Common summer resident, and irregular through fall and winter. A flock of about forty chose to remain an entire winter season on a high ridge above Bethany. During chill snow flurries they ran back and forth on the damp grass huddled up and calling to each other uneasily. Two pairs occupied the same pasture land in the following spring and raised two broods.

#### 28. Bob-White

Seemingly of irregular occurrence. I have record of but two nests though the birds surely nest wherever found. Coveys of large number were seen twice, but I could not keep them under observation, to see how they fared. The stomach of an adult female red-tailed hawk contained the feathers and feet of this species.

#### 29. Ruffed Grouse



Much rarer than formerly. A pair nested in an oak wood near Bethany in the spring of 1918. I had unusual glimpses of the male bird once or twice with the help of a stray hound which chanced to flush the bird in my direction.

### 30. Mourning Dove

Common summer resident. During the season of 1918 the nest of a dove was the first to be found. The female was incubating her two fresh eggs while the robins were just building. They are most commonly found nesting in the trees leaning over the creek bank.

### 31. Turkey Vulture

Not seen until 1916, at which time an isolated individual was seen flying laboredly before a heavy storm, like an ill omen. Later a group of six were seen assembled about a dead horse near the northern county line. In 1919 a pair were seen flying near and up into the cliffs along the Buffalo near Wellsburg. I had no opportunity for examining these cliffs but feel that they may have nested there.

### 32. Sharp Shinned Hawk

Commonest of the small hawks, and surely nests. Two young birds of the year were shot at the same time in the summer of 1914 and brought to me. They were undoubtedly from the same brood. I found the freshly killed body of a junco which a sharp-shin had just rendered headless; the little villain made away rapidly just as I got to the body of the bird, which was moving its last. It was about as quick a piece of work as I ever saw.

### 33. Cooper Hawk

Recorded three times. One was killed with a rock in a corn field while it was attempting to catch a bird in a corn shock.

### 34. Am. Goshawk

I saw one specimen at very close range in a low willow. I came upon

the bird very suddenly, and it was so strikingly large that I thought it was a cat at first. An erring shot failed to secure the bird. It was immature.

### 35. Red Tailed Hawk

The commonest nesting hawk of the region. During my residence I discovered about ten nests and secured four sets of eggs. The birds are usually careful in selecting a secluded section of the woods for the nest. I found one female incubating two infertile eggs. One wonders how long she would have sat on them. My earliest set was secured on Mar. 31, 1915. I secured several specimens of the birds, and had one fine young male in captivity for about two weeks. The accompanying sketch of his head and talon were made from life. I had to wrap him up in a towel to keep him quiet, and even then he got loose and caused considerable trouble in the room.

### 36. Am. Sparrow Hawk

Apparently does not nest in the county though the conditions are certainly favorable. I secured two specimens and three were brought to me.

### 37. Am. Osprey

Recorded once on May 1, 1919, though the bird was not secured. It disappeared to the north whence it came. It circled gracefully over the Buffalo for about five minutes. There is a report that Fish Hawks nest up in some of the wilder hills, but I have not found any.

### 38. Am. Barn Owl

A rare permanent resident. One brood was raised near Bethany in the season of 1918. The young made an incessant racket in the evening, and possibly all night, though I never stayed up all night to ascertain this. I mounted two specimens during my residence in Bethany.

### 39. Barred Owl

A pair nested at Logan's hollow in



1917. They hooted audibly nearly all night, while I was sleeping outside. One specimen was shot on Nov. 24, 1915. It was in excellent condition.

#### 40. Screech Owl

Common permanent resident. Their silence during certain periods of the year is quite as noteworthy as their noise during other seasons. It seems that after the nesting season is well under way they hush and do not resume their song until the fall when the young are nearly grown. I shall be interested if a specimen of Texas Screech Owl is secured anywhere near the discussed region, since I brought and liberated a specimen of this variety in Bethany, in the summer of 1914. It was seen and recognized on the college campus as late as October 1914.

#### 41. Great Horned Owl

Fairly common permanent resident. Sam Dickey has had such interesting experiences with these owls and their nests that it would pay us to learn all we can from him. However, I have been fortunate enough to have found three nests, secured three specimens and also had three birds for pets. Well, one was a pet, and two were more nearly 'pets.' One of these latter nearly got one of my fingers. There is a charm about this owl's lonely haunts that calls me early every spring.

#### 42. Road Runner

This bird has no deserved right to a place on this list save that it is interesting to know that one liberated bird braved two West Virginia winters in the open, with the one outstanding result that all his feathers became dull sooty black instead of lustrous as they were in Texas. I think even this speaks pretty well for a Road Runner, nevertheless.

#### 43. Yellow Billed Cuckoo

Undoubtedly nests in restricted num-

bers though I have never discovered a nest of this or the following species.

#### 44. Black Billed Cuckoo

Much commoner than the former apparently. The bird frequently breaks forth into irregular song on the moonlit nights.

#### 45. Belted Kingfisher

Common summer resident. It is noteworthy that two individuals braved the winter of 1916. It seems that the cold weather does not phase the birds much so long as the creeks remain open.

#### 46. Hairy Woodpecker

Tolerably common permanent resident. The species prefers to nest in the higher oaks and sycamores.

#### 47. Downy Woodpecker

Common permanent resident. Specimens collected near the town of Bethany have been, with one exception, very dingy and dirty, the lower parts so dirty as to be sooty gray.

#### 48. Yellow Bellied Sapsucker

A regular and common migrant. Their strange mewling noise is of frequent occurrence on the college campus at Bethany. It is barely possible that the species nests in the higher wilder hills. The bird while visiting its sap wells has the peculiar habit of alighting above the previously drilled holes and then dropping down to their level with three or four backward hitches.

*To be Continued.*

#### Red-bellied Woodpecker

October 5th, after chores in the morning I took a stroll in the woods nearby and almost the first thing I encountered was a bird I had not seen in these parts for some twenty years. At first I did not see the bird but heard a crash, chow, chow, in a loud guinea hen voice. At first I thought it was a squirrel scolding me, but at once I recognized it as the Red-bellied

Woodpecker. Then it flew away and I got a glimpse of it. I soon lost sight of it, but however, soon found it again by its call and followed it about the grove for a time watching its moves in search for food.

Wilson says, "It prefers the highest timbered woods and tallest decayed trees of the forests; seldom appearing near the ground, on the fence or in the orchards or open fields." I think it had been driven out of the heavy timber nearby, by the numerous hunters banging away from early dawn.

Wilson also says, "It rattles like the rest of the tribe, on the dead limbs and with such violence as to be heard, in still weather, more than half a mile off." This is a bird not often seen in these parts, about ten miles west of Columbus or have I seen it farther east than in the vicinity of Columbus.

The first one I ever saw was in a good sized piece of timber, some twenty years ago.

Geo. Vos Burgh,  
Columbus, Wis.

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#### Some Late Nesting Dates in Yates County, N. Y.

In reviewing the bird notes recorded in my journal during these evenings my attention is attracted to many instances of very late nesting of our common birds, some species rearing young that could leave the nest but a few days before their migration.

The following brief data is offered hoping it may cause the oologists to report their observations of this phase of bird nesting. To me the most interesting late nesting is that of the Ruby-throated Humming Bird. Just now I do not recall seeing this tiny gem later than September 25. They nest here in Western New York as commonly in July, as in June and August nesting is not rare. Two late breeding pairs are recorded. One nest discovered on August 25 contained

two young, but on the 30th both were dead. The latest date was of a nest with two young on September 4th, 1903 and I do not believe they could have left the nest before September 9th or 10th. One is forced to conclude that these bird midgets mature rapidly in order to have strength enough to migrate from this section by the last week in September.

Cedar Waxwing—The nesting dates of this slick plumaged, light voiced bird is about as erratic as its occurrence throughout the year. May nests are comparatively rare although I have noted them in the latter part of the month. June probably is their favorite nesting month, but July is a close second and nests of this bird with fresh eggs in August are not at all rare. I have recorded at least three instances of the Cedar Waxwing's late nesting, on September 7, 1900 with four young and another Sept. 8, 1901 with young just hatched and another September 10, 1905 containing two young and one egg.

Other late summer breeders, briefly stated are:

King Bird. August 5, female brooding on the nest.

Vesper Sparrow. July 22; four fresh eggs.

Chipping Sparrow. July 23; four fresh eggs.

Field Sparrow. August 10; with young in nest.

Bluebirds. August 17; the third family left one of the bird boxes in our yard.

Oven Bird. July 17; four fresh eggs with bird near.

Purple Finch. July 16; two nests in apple trees containing 3 and 4 fresh eggs.

Mourning Dove. July 29; two fresh eggs.

Hermit Thrush. July 2; three fresh eggs.

Wilson Thrush. July 24; with three incubated eggs.

Scarlet Tanager. July 4; with four fresh eggs.

Phoebe. August 24; young just left the nest.

Red-eyed Vireo. July 14; with two incubated eggs and one of the Cowbird.

Yellow Warbler. July 2; with two young.

Canadian Warbler. July 29; nest with one egg and both birds near.

C. F. Stone,  
Branchport, N. Y.

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### The Trumpeter Swan

The report of the Hollister, Superintendent of the National Zoological Park, maintained as a part of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., for the year ending June 30th, 1919, issued from the Government Printing Office 1912, at page 72, has the following:

The most serious loss by death among the birds was a female Trumpeter Swan, died May 14th, 1919, of Septicemia, just after it had been successfully mated after two years of effort with the male Trumpeter, lent to the Park by Judge R. M. Barnes, of Lacon, Ill. The eggs in the ovary were enlarged to the size of cherries and there is every reason to believe that but for the untimely loss of this Septicemia, just after it had been successfully bred. Thus another effort to save this noble species from complete extrication has proved abortive when on the point of success. We appeal to every reader of this publication to assist us in locating another female Trumpeter no matter where. One final effort still remains to be made. Write us of any that you know or may hear of.

R. M. Barnes,  
Lacon, Ill.

### An Early Nesting Date of Ruby-throated Humming Bird

Since sending my notes on early nesting of birds, I have continued the job of indexing my bird Journal wherein is recorded not only the goings and comings of birds but their antics and pen pictures of their local frivolities.

In this mass of notes I have discovered a forgotten incident of a very early date of the nesting of the Ruby-throated Humming Bird, on May 18, 1905. The nest was not only finished but contained one egg and the female Ruby-throat was humming very industriously on and off the nest a dozen times. I did not obtain the date of arrival for this year but they arrive here ordinarily May 10-12. Several pairs I have observed required from nine to ten days to build their dainty nest and deposit two eggs. Therefore, it seems logical that this nest of May 18th, was first begun very close to May 9th or immediately upon arrival.

The Male Ruby-throated Humming Bird is said to precede the female in the journey to their nesting haunts, but I am inclined to believe that this pair made the journey of over 2000 miles together.

When one considers with what frequency the Humming Bird must sip the nectar of life and the vast amount of energy that is consumed to obey the irresistible instinct of migration, it seems marvelous that this pair had the "pep" to begin nesting almost upon the day of arrival.

We may well exclaim "Isn't it astonishing how such a diminutive bird can contain so much energy."

Clarence Stone,  
Branchport, N. Y.

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### Making Our Beat

On a crisp Saturday in December, 1919, we sallied forth for the purpose of looking over our traps, and in expectation of possible adventures to be

encountered in God's wide creation. Two shot guns, a rifle and the irremissible camera were our dumb companions.

Having gained the summit of a hill we perceived a pair of Blue Birds that were having a glorious time on a fence post. A little later our attention was attracted by several Cardinals which were satisfying their hunger in the underbrush. Many other species of Fringillidae were seen, the slate-colored Junco being most abundant. Besides these we took note of Titmice, Creepers, one Pileated Woodpecker and of course, the Crow.

Everybody in this vicinity is after squirrels and rabbits with culinary intents. These animals therefore seem to be educated, for no sooner Man enters the woods, or their respective premises, they disappear, and one has a poor chance of getting one of the terranean rodents without having a hound along. As it was, Dame Fortune seemed to smile on us, for we "jumped" our first and last cottontail this day. Knowing his possible fate he hiked with lightning's quickness into the adjacent heap of brushes and no cajoling on our part would induce him to pay us his respects. Our whetted appetite was not done justice. After this little enterprise, we arrived at our first traps, full of anticipation, but Mr. Opossum had been more cunning than the trappers. The bait, a Blue Jay, was gone. When the trap was revisited at a later date, behold someone was playing "possum," although the unrelenting jaws of a Victor held fast its victim. Once too often had the tempting bait lured the marsupial into the hollow which it was known to frequent. In spite of her doing cleverly away with the menu several times ridiculing as it were its ruthless, ambushed foe, it succumbed this time.

After our quarry was dispatched, we decided to hunt for some squirrels in the neighborhood. Just as with the rabbits, none were seen but one, and it got away on us too. History repeats itself. The nimble climber had reached his retreat and it was decided upon to try to smoke him out.

Picking the powder and other accessories one of us liberally volunteered to sacrifice his red handkerchief for the good cause. An enterprising lad managed to get to the door of the squirrel abode and did the poking and the smoking part in a most fashionable manner. The harrassed animal remained in its retreat, whether dead or alive who knows?

Shortly after this chase we spied two "Chicken Hawks" soaring not very far above us. These aerial robbers tempted us to waste some ammunition on them, but before long things must have become critical, for they went off in a hurry. Now two more traps were visited, but nothing was caught. On our way to the second last one we ran on to a bee tree, lying prostrate in our way. It was decided to deprive it of honey towards evening. It yielded nearly four quarts of the coveted sweet. The reader can imagine our timidity in going about to rob the busy insects, if I say that this was our first experience of the kind. Since the bees did not show a hostile attitude the job was finished quickly.

Having left the bee tree, the traps were reached in a few minutes, and we were pleased to bag another opossum. Beside one mink, an opossum was all that was caught in this season. A raccoon was known to make the vicinity dangerous for poultry but it could not be caught.

From this you see not only the Southern Darkie but also his competitors, the ruddy farmer youth must



say, "Persimmon time brings 'possum time." All our youthful Nimrod wants are a few good traps and probably if he intends to do night hunting, one or two curs of questionable pedigree. This prowler also had to reimburse his voracity with his hide. The juicy simmon had well served its purpose. When the trap was approached the victim was feigning death, but of what avail? His cunning will not save his coveted pelt, appear he ever so piteously, for Furs! Furs! is the slogan of today. Oh, Opossum! Could you but see into the future you would not feed thus recklessly upon the juicy persimmon.

To look after the last trap required a few minutes only. After putting down some fresh bait we made a beeline for home that was standing invitingly on the hillside, about a thousand feet distant. Although unsuccessful, all said to have well enjoyed these five hours in the open. If we did not have much else we had brought along an A No. 1 appetite, and thanks to our host it could fully be done justice, although we had to dispense with rabbit a la farmer style.

H. S. A. Insinger,  
Valley Park, Mo.

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### Two Exceptional Records

On March 29, 1919, I collected a male Red-breasted Nuthatch here at Lexington. Mr. Otto Widmann, in his "Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri" (1907), said that until the time of publication no Red-breasted Nuthatches had been found in Missouri between January 15 and April 15, except in the extreme southern counties, more than one hundred miles south of here. If others have been taken in Missouri in this latitude I will be glad to hear of them as I am anxious to know if this is really an important record.

The thing of most interest to us here has been a Lawrence Warbler collected by Clark Salyer, May 3, 1919. At least that is why we have concluded that it is. It is plainly a hybrid of the Golden and Blue-winged Warblers, but is unusual. The black is on the lores, but does not extend through the eye. The throat bears the usual black patch, and the breast and under parts are yellow. Moreover, the most unusual thing about it is the size. It is six and one-fourth inches in length, longer by an inch than either the Blue or Golden-winged Warbler. An excellent skin was prepared by the collector, and is now a highly valued part of his rapidly growing collection.

E. Landan Alexander.

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### The Migratory Bird Treaty Law

The Associated Press dispatches, of April 19th, bear the very important information that the United States Supreme Court has sustained the constitutionality of this law. Let us all true bird lovers rejoice. Let it now be enforced without fear or favor. Let all real Oologists aid in its enforcement in every way.

We hope the game bags and the slaughterers who fouled, ignored and defied this law for the first few years will now be punished to the limit. They not only butchered the birds by the thousands when filled with eggs on their way to their summer nesting grounds but also set at naught the law and defied the flag, in order to satisfy their brutal blood thirsty dispositions. This class were not and could not be sportsmen in the true sense of the word. They were simply low grade killers who took their chances and now we hope to see Uncle Sam turn the pages back to their scandalous conduct and punish them as they richly deserve.

R. M. Barnes.



# NOTICE !

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During 1920 the Oologist will publish advertisements only for the length of time for which they are paid for, and no longer.

If you want to get Birds' Skins, Eggs, Nests, or Mounted, or to dispose of the same, or to get or sell books relating to the same, we are the very best medium in America through which to secure or dispose of the same.

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THE OOLOGIST.

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BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS  
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VOL. XXXVII. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 898



# THE OOLOGIST

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco. Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 6

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 398

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oölogist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

It is a pleasure to be able to say that we are now again able to take an active part in the issuing of THE OÖLOGIST. We thank those of our subscribers who so kindly helped during our illness as well as our assistant who took charge while we were incapacitated.—R. M. Barnes.

Dr. R. B. Bales of Circleville, O., chairman of twenty-five who are to pass on the prices of eggs that will appear in the New Catalog, writes us that he will leave about May 10th for a stay among the birds on the Island off the Virginia Coast. We hope the trip will prove as successful as his trip there last year and that our readers will enjoy a description of the same by the Doctor in due time.

—R. M. Barnes.



ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS  
OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.

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PART II

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NOTE—The opening sentence of the first installment of this article appearing in the May number should have read, "With the exception of Hancock County, Brooks county is the Northernmost county of West Virginia panhandle. An unfortunate error made it read that Brooks County was the southernmost county of this panhandle.—Editor.

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49. Red Headed Woodpecker

This species is notably rare, but it nests where found. I had the luck to find three nests. The species occurs much more commonly further west in Ohio and to the north in Hancock county.

50. Red Bellied Woodpecker

This is one of the common characteristic birds of the region. It selects the highest oak trees for its nest, and contrary to my previous experience, seems to be able to hide the nest opening pretty well. The nests of this bird which I discovered in Texas were often as low as fifteen feet from the ground, and were usually not hard to find. But here the bird has assumed a more shy nature.

51. Flicker

Common. Frequents the old apple orchards. One bird had the strange habit of pecking at the inside of its nest even when the young were half grown. Whether this is to actually widen the cavity or merely to lead the passer-by to think the nest is just being constructed, I cannot say.

52. Whip-poor-will

These frequent the wilder wooded sections, and are quite common in suitable environs.

53. Nighthawk

Though this species must nest hereabouts I have not discovered the eggs or even a pair which seemed to be breeding. I have two specimens secured in mid-summer (July) which may have nested near Juerdon Run. They are common as early fall migrants, however.

54. Chimney Swift

An abundant summer resident. I watched this species very carefully in its spring appearance in 1919. A huge flock suddenly appeared on April 1st in the midst of a very dreary spell of weather. The birds were unusually noticeable and noisy and seemed a bit sluggish. They appropriated a large open chimney in the church as a roosting place. I watched the birds for several days before deciding to climb to the chimney. They would brighten up considerably and fly much higher when the sun came out, and the greater part of the flock went back into the chimney when it became dark again. Several died of starvation, since there was a scarcity of food. All these starved specimens I saved. On May 1st I climbed to the chimney about twilight. The fearless birds circled near me, and even when I was sitting on the edge of the chimney dashed by me into the refuge below. The drive was performed with much ease and speed. The wings were set above the back entirely outspread, and the birds really dropped into the entrance. Frequently the bird twirled from side to side while accomplishing the feat. It was very difficult for them to enter the chimney in a high wind, and more than once I saw the birds attempt to enter during a snow gale, only to be dashed against the rim of the chimney, to catch themselves for another trial. This early flock was composed largely of males I believe, since I captured only two females out of fifteen birds

caught. During one snow storm the entire flock left the chimney in a great rush, and wandered gloomily to the southward until they were out of sight.

#### 55. Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Common summer resident. I discovered only two nests, however.

#### 56. Kingbird

Another species which is notably scarce as compared with its abundance further east and west. The birds seems more abundant locally, at Collier in the northern part of the county.

#### 57. Crested Flycatcher

Common summer resident of the high open groves. These in company with the red bellied woodpeckers seek the almost inaccessible snags in the highest forest trees for their nesting sites. Their loud defiant call is one of the most characteristic notes of the forest land.

#### 58. Phoebe

Abundant summer resident. The bird returns early from the south, and nesting activities commence soon. The usual set of eggs is five, according to my averages, though three and four have been noted; however, cowbird eggs with these sets may account for the absence of one or two of the owner.

#### 59. Wood Pewee

Common summer resident. I have had several enjoyable experiences with a certain pewee, chasing up moths from the grass for him to catch. He would watch on a nearby twig until I had kicked up some insect and then he would dart down and snatch it up, even though I were only six feet away.

#### 60. Yellow Bellied Flycatcher

Taken twice during fall migration.

#### 61. Acadian Flycatcher

Rather rare summer resident. The species builds a rather frail nest near the ends of horizontal branches. A specimen in my collection shows the strong buffy tinge of the immature on its wing Coverts,

#### 62. Least Flycatcher

Recorded twice, but apparently does not breed at all, though I have made a diligent search.

#### 63. Prairie Horned Lark

Fairly common permanent resident. This species is characteristic of the high open hill tops, and its actions and song are peculiarly suited to such an environment. They are very early nesters here, and I have not succeeded in finding a nest with eggs, as yet. The birds are locally more abundant toward Ohio County to the south.

#### 64. Blue Jay

Along with other common birds of the mid-west this species shares the distinction of being rare. Strange to say I have but five records. One was seen flying high over the flat land in the Cross Creek district in the fall of 1916. Two were observed in an old apple orchard in the spring of 1917, and two were heard later that year. Specimens in the Bethany College collections suggest that the species may have been more common formerly.

#### 65. Am. Crow

Abundant permanent resident. I have not ascertained whether there was a crow roost in the county during the winter of '15-'16, but the numbers of crows that went over each evening about six o'clock indicate that a roost was somewhere close at hand. There were literally thousands of crows in these flocks. Over 8,000 were counted in one evening, and then all were not counted. During the severe winter of 1918 the crows feasted on a certain dead hog in a field near Bethany. This one hog evidently fed all the crows in the neighborhood during most of the season.

#### 66. Bobolink

This species probably does not nest though the conditions are favorable. Small flocks remain about the fields

for a short period in the spring, and then disappear.

#### 67. Cowbird

Far too common. The inroads of this species on the domestic rights of the smaller species of birds is responsible for a considerable amount of damage, I believe. I feel sure that the cowbird pushes eggs of the owner out in order to make room for her own.

#### 69. Yellow Headed Blackbird

One bird seen flying over Point Breeze on July 16, 1914.

#### 69. Red Winged Blackbird

Common summer resident. In the absence of cattails this species nests commonly in the lower alfalfa fields bordering the creeks.

#### 70. Meadowlark

Common. One individual was noted all through the winter of 1916. It is probable that a few remain through each winter.

#### 71. Orchard Oriole

Rather rare summer resident. I did not find the species breeding until the season of 1918.

#### 72. Baltimore Oriole

Abundant summer resident. An old oriole nest was brought to me with the much blackened and decayed skull of an adult attached securely below with a hair. This is the first time I have noted an oriole hanged at its own nest.

#### 73. Rusty Blackbird

Unusually common in the fall migration of 1917. Six specimens were secured from a huge flock.

#### 74. Bronzed Grackle

Abundant summer resident. The nest robbing of this species had been discussed at the first of this paper. It will be interesting to ascertain whether this habit is indulged in by both male and female birds.

#### 75. Purple Finch

Recorded twice. I identified imme-

diately an adult male, merely by hearing his loud vigorous song, on May 16, 1917, at Point Breeze. This was the first purple finch song I had ever heard, and the first male I had ever seen. The later views I had of the bird singing, were well worth the time spent. The other record was a female seen late in the summer of 1918.

#### 76. White Winged Crossbill

This species may be recorded by virtue of a specimen in the collection of Bethany College. The bird was secured in 1897, near the town of Bethany. It is not known whether it was taken from a visiting flock, or simply as an individual staggler.

#### 77. Am. Goldfinch

Abundant summer resident, and an occasional winter visitant.

#### 78. Vesper Sparrow

Common summer resident. A rather early nester.

#### 79. Grasshopper Sparrow

Fairly common summer resident of the more open country. I discovered one nest with fresh eggs in the season of 1918. Other searches for the nest were unrewarded.

#### 80. White Crowned Sparrow

Noted in migration several times; but one specimen secured.

#### 81. White Throated Sparrow

Exceedingly abundant migrant. The chirp of the species is quite distinctive.

#### 82. Tree Sparrow

Abundant winter visitant. Never until the early spring of 1918 was I privileged to hear the real song of this species. The gentle musical chorus of a flock on a sunned winter slope is beautiful and cheerful, but there is a remarkable sweetness and refined character in the song of the spring male when I heard him by myself. The song as a whole reminded me at first of some extraordinary warbler.

#### 83. Chipping Sparrow

Abundant summer resident ...

**84. Field Sparrow**

Nests quite as often on the ground as in bushes.

**85. Slate Colored Junco**

Abundant winter visitant. It is barely possible that the Carolina Junco may nest in some of the wilder, higher hills, but I have never seen the species at the proper season.

**86. Song Sparrow**

Abundant permanent resident. I secured one remarkable set of this species, which I believe was the second set of the season. The nest was placed in a clump of weeds directly at the side of a much used road. Only one of the four eggs had really noticeable spotting; the others being plain bluish white. This set is freer from marking than any set of the species I have ever seen.

**87. Swamp Sparrow**

Common as migrant. Five specimens secured. Seems to be much quieter in disposition than the song sparrow.

**88. Towhee**

Abundant summer resident. Occasionally remains through the winter. A flock of seven remained through the cold season of 1917, and were seen regularly on the creek banks, among the brush.

**89. Cardinal**

Another characteristic permanent resident of the county. The nests are not difficult to discover. A pair built in the corner of a neighbor's chicken house in the season of 1919.

**90. Rose Breasted Grosbeak**

Apparently does not nest locally though I have recorded it several times in the spring migration, and taken it once in July, 1916 and once in August, 1917.

**91. Indigo Bunting**

Common summer resident. The males of this species certainly have

'singing trees' as has been suggested by Mr. Mousley in 'The Auk.'

**92. Dickcissel**

This species nested on the alfalfa covered hills back of the College barn at Bethany during the season of 1916. I have no other records for the species.

**93. Scarlet Tanager**

Abundant summer resident. I discovered six nests in the season of 1919, all of which were placed in open situations. One incompleated nest in which a cowbird had laid its egg, was completed later. The specimen, which is in my collection presents an interesting example of architectural triumph over the cowbird. One nest of this species which had three eggs of the owner and one of the cowbird was discovered later to have three of the cowbird and only two of the owner. Who is to blame?

**94. Purple Martin**

Notably rare, on account of the lack of houses presumably. I discovered two pairs nesting in a hollow tree near Bethany in 1915. It occurs locally through the county at farm houses.

**95. Barn Swallow**

Abundant summer resident.

**96. Tree Swallow**

A pair was noted in the spring of 1917. No other records.

**97. Rough Winged Swallow**

Apparently the similar bank swallow does not occur. The rough wing amply takes the place of the other species, however, and builds in the holes in the banks and in crevices in abutments of bridges. One high clay bank near Bethany held three rough wing burrows and one kingfisher's in the same season. The rough wings are common in the high banks of the Cross Creek district.

**98. Cedar Waxwing**

Irregular permanent resident. Large droves will appear in mid-winter and remain for weeks, only to disappear.



Occasionally pairs nest in the county. I discovered one nest in 1918 as late as July 11. The female was incubating a set of five eggs.

#### 99. Red Eyed Vireo

Abundant summer resident. Builds occasionally in the open apple orchards but more commonly in the deeper woods.

#### 100. Philadelphia Vireo

Possibly nests. I secured one specimen in July of 1916.

#### 101. Warbling Vireo

Common summer resident.

#### 102. Yellow Throated Vireo

Fairly common summer resident of the deep woods.

#### 103. Blue Headed Vireo

I secured a pair of these birds on May 1, 1916.

#### 104. Black and White Warbler

Common summer resident. Nests in the rather open woods and also in the more deeply wooded areas.

#### 105. Worm Eating Warbler

Nests in restricted numbers. I have not discovered a nest but have found the parents feeding young.

(To be continued)

#### Vulture Times.

March and April brought back the Vulture days to us. As it had been a long time since Mr. G. E. Maxon and myself had made a Vulture egg hunt to our old tramping grounds. The War and other things had separated us for several years, and this spring found us in business and working together. So a Vulture egg hunt was suggested to be had at Jefferson Crossings forty miles up the River that runs into Lake worth, and later forms the Trinity River. The country is hilly and rocky, with rocky cliffs and ledges at the tops. Mr. Maxon drove up to my camps with his Tin Lizzie. We had a man to watch our Boat and Minnow business, and away

we went. Along the road the pastures were alive with bird life. Discovered some Killdeers on our way out. Arrived at the hunting grounds. While Mr. Maxon was trudging over the rocks a Turkey Vulture flushed out and there he found a nice set of eggs. As he hunted one rocky hill I hunted another. I never flushed many vultures, but found one set of Black and one set of Turkey Vultures. While I was doing all this tumbling and sliding up and down the hills, Mr. Maxon was trudging patiently along now and then finding a set. He succeeded in collecting two showy sets of Turkey Vultures and a set of Blacks. We never had a set time to get back to the car. Oh! Excuse me I never meant car. I meant to say Ford. Well Mr. Maxon makes this tin Lizzie of his do nearly everything but hunt and climb hawks' nests. We both got back to the Lizzie at about the same time. Homeward bound well satisfied, as we got what we went after. We hope all collectors good luck this season. I collected a set of Belted Kingfishers near my camps, and a full set of seven. Incubated? Yes, that's my luck, so bad that I could not blow them.

Ramon Graham.

Texas Bird Notes, 1920.

On Sunday, February 22d, a flock of about 30 ducks were seen flying down the River past this village by Henry Weber. He says they were flying low, about 200 feet up, and were good sized ducks, although he could not tell to what species they belonged.

This is something unusual as we very seldom see ducks before the middle of March.

C. W. Pelton.

Nekoosa, Wis.





Birds of Brooks Co., West Virginia      Caroline Wren, Male  
Drawn from life for The Oologist By Geo. W. Sutton.

**ARCH-DEACON A. R. HOARE MURDERED.**

The "Chicago Tribune" of May 12th contained the following:

**"Starts With Slayer Son on 150 Mile Trip Over Ice to Jail.**

"Seattle, Wash., May 10.—The Rev. A. R. Hoare an Episcopal missionary in Alaska for twenty years, was shot and killed at Point Hope April 27 by James McGuire, Jr., 18 years old, son of the superintendent of education at Kotbegue, Alaska, according to a wireless despatch received here today.

The boy was taken into custody by his father and is now a prisoner on a dog sled crossing the snow and ice to the nearest United States marshal at Candle, 150 miles distant. It is believed he is demented.

It was said that the Rev. Mr. Hoare met the boy on a trip "outside" last summer and induced him to go into the north with him as his assistant last fall."

As many of our readers know Rev. Hoare, has for a number of years been a close personal friend of the Editor, and has collected for us in that cold bleak place some of the rarest and finest Oological and Ornithological specimens, now in any collection. By his death we lose not only a good and true friend but also a valued assistant.

He went into Alaska with the rush of gold hunters many years ago, being one of a party of four young Englishman who tried their luck. Not making a strike the party gradually disintegrated and most of them returned to their English homes. But the observations and experiences of young Hoare convinced him of the great need of religion instruction and training among the natives of Alaska. His deep seated religious nature, being a son of a clergyman, soon asserted itself and he entered the mis-

sionary field. He was stationed in a number of places in Alaska, and finally was selected for the important post at Point Hope, where he remained for a number of years. He was a man of somewhat under average height, sturdily built, splendidly educated and by nature well equipped to withstand the Arctic winters. He was a man of few words, but of strong and original ideas, and the very personification of energy itself. One illustration of this was his building the missions buildings there himself with only Esquimo aid, and they are substantial, commodious, well built structures that will last for years. He originated the idea of lighting them with electricity to be generated by the power of a wind mill. The entire plant was designed by him, shipped up there and installed. All worked well until the winter snows came on when the wheel, which was in a tower 16 feet from the ground, became stalled by the drifting around it and engulfing both tower and wheel.

In the year 1918 Rev. Hoare made us a visit at our Lacon home, when on his way to visit his aged mother at his home on the Isle of Man. He was a man of unusually good descriptive power, and his unusually wide opportunity for observation and travel made him a most desirable guest. He brought with him about four hundred kodak views of Alaskan life and scenery. A most wonderful lot of pictures indeed. He told us of many very interesting experiences in the frozen north a couple of which will be illustrative of his life there.

One morning early—as that term is there used—at a time when there was only about two hours of sunlight a day, he heard a commotion outside the mission house caused by his sled dogs, the "Huskies," making a great racket. Stepping to the door he peeked out

and there standing in the snow within 50 yards of his door snarling at the dogs was a huge Polar Bear. To step back and pick up his rifle and shoot the bear was done quicker than we can write it. The bear proved to be one of the largest ever killed in Alaska.

Another time he had chided some of his mission attendants for being late to service. The next Sunday he was awakened about 5 o'clock a. m. and on looking out saw practically the entire Esquimo village inhabitants squatted in the snow about the little church, and on going out to inquire the cause, was informed they came early so as not to be late for church, this began at 9 o'clock. After church they resumed their places in the snow outside, filling in the time until evening services at 6 o'clock, with games and lunches, so as not to be late for night church. Some of these families had walked eight miles through the snow. Arctic winter and all were devoted to their Missionary guide.

Rev. Hoare did a great and good work among these simple minded folk. He was Missionary, United States Commissioner, Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and about everything else there. He had to be, as he was the only resident white man between Nome and Point Barrow, a distance of about 500 miles.

As amateur naturalist he had few superiors and as in the care with which his specimens were prepared very few equals. His opportunities for becoming acquainted with the home life of many of our rare birds such as the Yellow billed Loon, Pacific Loon, Stellers Eider, Little Brown Crane, and a very large number of rare Sandpipers, Plovers and others, was unequaled and he took full advantage of these opportunities. He told us that at one time. From one

point where he stood on a ridge he could count the nests of 50 of our Snipelike wading birds without moving.

Why a man who was giving his life in the service of God for the uplift of his fellowman should be thus cut down in his prime passeth understanding.

He is survived by a widow and three daughters, the eldest about 15 years of age who reside at Pasadena, California.

R. M. BARNES.



Frank H. Lattin.

The following newspaper comment on the founder of THE OOLOGIST appeared in one of the Albany, N. Y., papers of April 24th last:

"If one is desirous of a most interesting talk on bird life and likewise something concerning the birth and growth of the Oologist, he can do no

better than meet Assemblyman Frank H. Lattin of Albion, the man who conceived the idea of a publication first known as the "Young Oologist," and which is today known as the "Oologist," the grown up product of the little sheet which first saw the light of day at Gaines, N. Y., back in 1884.

"How did I happen to start the Oologist"? said Assemblyman Lattin the other day, in reply to a question.

"I was a farm boy, fond of collecting birds' eggs, minerals and about everything else other than money that was collectible. I excluded the money part for the reason that so far as I could discover there was very little in the entire world, of which in those days, Gaines was the center.

"I inserted a swap ad in some of the magazines such as 'The Golden Days,' but learned that while many boys and men, too, in the cities, were desirous of obtaining birds' eggs which I had on hand, they really had nothing to swap and so I was forced to place a money value on the birds' eggs, which I had collected. I presume that I placed a value on eggs, the first of its kind, and which I know was the authority for years, and which is still, with slight changes, a price authority.

"And from that beginning, there eventually came a business which resulted in my frequently receiving as high as 500 letters a day, and the little postoffice at Gaines was almost swamped with business. During those days, I had many thousands of eggs in my possession, and one man was kept constantly at a mailing desk, packing and shipping eggs to all quarters of the globe. I well remember some of the letters, coming as they did from members of the royal family in more than one country, including South America and Europe.

"I had figured and still maintain that one out of every ten thousand

persons is interested in some phase of bird life, either in the collection of eggs, or skins, or in making some other study that possesses a singular attractiveness other than a mere passing fad. When I was in the business both as the editor and publisher of the Oologist, as well as in handling eggs, skins, minerals and curios, I had every reason to believe that I was in touch with that one individual in every ten thousand of our population.

"Just to show you that far reaching effects and likewise how long some persons will remember persons identified with their own particular hobby, if you can call it such, I will cite an instance which occurred only a year or so ago, long after I was out of the business in an active way. In one week, I received letters from Java, England, France and Canada, each from persons who remembered me through my associations with the Oologist and who were desirous of securing eggs or skins, or some information.

"And so I think that I am reasonably proud of the Oologist as it existed in the past and more than proud that this child of 1884 has grown to full fledged manhood and is today occupying so important a position, so well rounded out in its maturity through able editorship, that it serves its purpose in the fullest sense of the word."

C. L. Grant.

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### Illinoisans

At the present writing I am taking seventeen magazines on various branches of Natural History, but none gives me the pleasure that the Oologist does. The country is flooded with bird magazines (I am glad to say) but this little paper is unique. Its stability is certain. For over thirty-five years it has faithfully been published. I wonder if the Illinoisans appreciate



it, as we should. It is our magazine. Is it receiving the support from us that it should. The Editor, unselfishly, spends much thought and time on this magazine, and many times he has sent in a plea for copy. Have we cooperated with him? Our various experiments may be of no interest to us, but let us send them in. Perhaps it is just what the other fellow wants. Let each one of us get that "Friend" to send in his subscription to THE OOLOGIST and watch our paper grow.

Theodore R. Greer.

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On December 23, 1919, while going along the road at Cherry Creek, N. Y., I was surprised to see a Killdeer pass over me and go out of sight in the storm. In about five minutes it appeared again and settled in a snow bank where it was shot by a gunner. The snow was twelve inches deep and had been for four weeks. I think this is a late date for this bird. My latest previous date was November 1st.

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#### Sennett's White Tailed Hawk

About May the 15th is a good time to begin for Long Billed Curlews nests, in the North Plains of Texas.

In 1916 I wrote an old Cow Puncher friend to look out for them and let me know the very first day they begun to arrive; about May 3 the information come, and if a hurry up call was made he would put me in touch with a Golden Eagle nest on a ledge on the Cimmaron River.

The 9th day of May I was on the ground and rareing to go and as everything is done in an automobile on the plains country it was only a matter of a few minutes getting out to the river. The first thing that impressed me was Sennetts White Tailed Hawks, not a few just simply "lots" of them and since this seemed out of their breeding range they became more in-

teresting than the Golden Eagle or the Curlews, either of which are much harder to get and scarcer in number. Arriving at the brakes of the river, and I might say here that on the plains you are on the river before you know it, no matter what river; you are running along on smooth level ground and before you know it you are on top of the bluff overlooking the sand waste in front of you. We stopped short, stepped out of the car not over thirty feet from a point on the ledge directly over the Eagle nest. About two hundred yards out in the river was a large cottonwood tree and in this a nest large enough for an Eagle, with a bird on it; a shot over the top of the tree brought out a Sennetts White Tailed Hawk. Investigation of this nest showed four eggs badly incubated. Down the river possibly a mile another cottonwood and another nest and this proved to be a set of three eggs badly incubated. Some two hundred yards further down the river and next to a sandy bluff of the river stood a hackberry tree and a very large nest well up to the top. We climbed the bank and overlooking this nest and not over eight feet away could see the two eggs which also proved to be badly incubated. All told we found five nests in the one day and my friend told me that this is the most plentiful of the Hawks. Every authority I have run on to has placed the breeding range of this bird from Central Texas to the South, while the above were found in Cimmaron County Oklahoma. Is this extending the breeding range or has the writer overlooked something?

R. L. Moore.

February 10, 1920.

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#### Canada Geese.

Are there any of the readers of THE OOLOGIST who have not heard of the Canadian Goose Tamer? His name is



Jack, Miner, Kingsville, Ontario, 40 miles southeast of Detroit. This man, beginning with nothing, has now an annual visitation from 2,000 or 3,000 Canada Geese, many of whom are so tame that on April 22nd, 1920, I was within 50 yards of the farthest away of 400 and over. They come right to his house, and settle down calmly before any number of visitors. On April 25 there were 83 automobiles at once in front of his place, whose passengers were enjoying the novel sight.

The beginning of the story reaches back to 1905 when he bought 4 pinioned Canadas, and it was several years before he had his first wild guests. Eleven came the first year, then over 30, then 150 and now by the thousand. Needless to say there is no shooting, but the whole affair is a living proof of how much more interesting living things are than dead ones.

This year he has had 4 investigating committees of Swans fly over to see if his place was really safe, but apparently the report was adverse, and they went back to the lake. Now, he is after a pair of Whistlers to assure those visitors that all is O. K.

W. E. Saunders.

London, Ont.

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**Redpoll and Cardinal at Hawthorne, N. J., During Winter of 1919-1920.**

On February 8th, 1920, the writer observed a single male Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) feeding on the weed-seeds in a dooryard at Hawthorne, N. J., during the middle afternoon. This bird remained for about an hour in this particular dooryard and furnished ample opportunity to positively identify it as the writer was at work in a small shop at the rear of this property and was able to get within five feet of this bird by means of a window without making any

noise to frighten this rather rare visitant. This is the first record for about five years that he has secured. Its appearance now is probably due to the severe snowstorm which was prevalent for three days during which approximately fourteen inches of snow fell and which caused no end of scarcity of natural food for our feathered friends. Both his wife and the winter have spread many common bird seeds at this spot since the storm and have been rewarded by observing numbers of Song Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, and Chickadees, and about a large piece of suet placed here several White-breasted Nuthatches, a Downy, and numerous Blue Jays have fed.

On December 23, 1919, in a copse of woods, principally oak and hickory, the writer observed a Cardinal feeding on the ground in the same manner as the Chewink and later flying about and whistling in the trees above. This is rather north of its usual range and the only record the writer has been able to secure at this latitude. The nearest record he has obtained was at Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J., nine miles to the south, where on several occasions single specimens were observed.

The Sparrow Hawk (*falce sparverius*) has been very common in Hawthorne, N. J., and in about Paterson, N. J., throughout this winter. In fact a pair have been seen continuously in a field adjacent to the Passaic River at Riverside (Paterson) each day since December 29th, 1919. On February 2d, a single bird was observed near the Passaic Falls flying low over the ice above the falls, and another near here on the Totowa side of the river on Feb. 8th.

Louis S. Kohler.

Hawthorne, N. J.

# NOTICE !

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During 1920 the Oologist will publish advertisements only for the length of time for which they are paid for, and no longer.

If you want to get Birds' Skins, Eggs, Nests, or Mounted, or to dispose of the same, or to get or sell books relating to the same, we are the very best medium in America through which to secure or dispose of the same.

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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 399





## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

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I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco, Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 7

ALBION, N. Y., JULY 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 399

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The middle of the summer is here. Bird nesting for 1920 is almost a thing of the past. Now is the time to sit down and write up the specially interesting notes of the season's work, for the benefit of THE OÖLOGIST readers. It would be rather selfish to leave them hidden away in a musty note book and not be willing to divide them with other members of the Oological Fraternity. There are few enough of us at best and with the present laws our number is more likely to decrease than increase. The surest way to keep up interest is to divide the information concerning that which interests you with others and then others will reciprocate. Up to this writing the Editor has not taken a single egg this season, though he has a number of rare ones laid by his birds in confinement which failed to hatch.

# ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF BROOKE COUNTY, W. VA.

By George Sutton

## PART III

### 106. Golden Winged Warbler

Fairly common summer resident. This species has a very distinctive song.

### 107. Brewster's Warbler

I secured one good specimen on April 30, 1917. The specimen sang the song of the golden winged species and was the counterpart of that species in nearly every characteristic.

### 108. Tennessee Warbler

Abundant in migration. All day on Sept. 7, 1917, this species was excessively abundant, wherever I went.

### 109. Cape May Warbler

Rather abundant in the spring migration of 1916, and the fall migration of 1917. An unusually late individual was brought to me on Dec. 7, which I had in captivity for some days. The song of this species has puzzled me considerably. I feel sure that a certain bright pretty song I heard in May, 1918, was from an adult male of this species, though the song is commonly spoken of as a monotonous lisp.

### 110. Yellow Warbler

Abundant summer resident.

### 111. Black Throated Blue Warbler

Common migrant. May nest, though I have no records.

### 112. Myrtle Warbler

Common spring migrant. Apparently not so common in the fall.

### 113. Magnolia Warbler

Abundant migrant.

### 114. Cerulean Warbler

This is one of the characteristic breeding birds of the region. The nest is placed near the end of a long limb. The birds are very careful not to disclose the location of the nest, and together with the fact that the female

is a very quiet bird the nest is very difficult to find. The song of the male may be represented by the syllables "cheery-cheery-cheery-chee," hardly as plain as that and yet strongly suggestive of those syllables. He sings usually among the high branches, and while singing remains at his post for some minutes. Then without warning he will leave this post and after an interval begin his song in some distant tree. Several males that I have observed seemed to have about four chosen trees in which they sang. One male I watched closely for a day in May remained absolutely quiet during one of his singing spells, save that he faced about once. Only twice in the woods have I seen the full back of the Cerulean Warbler. Once was when a male snapped up a low flying insect—only to dart back up to the top of a locust, and again I saw clearly two males chasing each other, while I was collecting a set of tanager's in a high maple. An adult female which I shot on June 1st, 1915, was incubating, for her belly was bare of feathers.

### 115. Chestnut Sided Warbler

Taken twice in spring migration; both adult males. I also secured an immature bird, with plain white underparts and yellow green upper parts on Sept. 6, 1915.

### 116. Bay Breasted Warbler

The immatures of this species are surely the most common warblers of the fall migration. They are deliberate and graceful in movement, and for the most part very tame. They are rarer in spring migration.

### 117. Black Poll Warbler

Common spring migrant; abundant in fall. The immatures of this species and the former are about equally abundant and very hard to distinguish.

### 118. Blackburnian Warbler

Abundant migrant. I should call the song rather wheezy though ap-

parently great effort is put forth by the singer.

#### 119. Black Throated Green Warbler

During the spring migrations the birds keep well up in the trees, but in the fall the immature birds are much easier to approach.

#### 120. Oven Bird

Rather rare summer resident.

#### 121. Louisiana Water Thrush

Another characteristic bird of the region. The wild rocky glens of the little hill creeks are peculiarly adapted to the wishes of this bird, and nearly every 'run' has its pair of lively, cautious water thrushes. The spring song of the adults is a wonderfully loud and striking volley, and is apparently rendered by both sexes. They are very dainty creatures as they run along the slippery rocks with tails gracefully wagging up and down. I captured a nestling in 1916, but have not found the eggs.

#### 122. Kentucky Warbler

Abundant summer resident of the deep woods. The song may easily be confused with that of the oven bird.

#### 123. Mourning Warbler

I secured one immature female on Sept. 21, 1914.

#### 124. Maryland Yellowthroat

Common summer resident.

#### 125. Yellow Breasted Chat

An abundant characteristic bird of the region. The nest is usually placed in a low bush on an open hillside, and is quite the easiest to discover of any of the warblers, save possibly the yellow warbler. I once discovered a chat nest unexpectedly, and almost touched the female bird; otherwise I have found them very seclusive and difficult of approach. The loud song of the male usually suggests where the nest may be found.

#### 126. Wilson Warbler

Recorded in the fall of 1918.

#### 127. Canadian Warbler

Recorded twice in the spring of 1916.

#### 128. Am. Redstart

Common in migration and probably nests. I saw one female redstart all during the summer of 1914 and feel that probably she was nesting. The species is notably rarer than it is further east however.

#### 129. Catbird

All sets secured in 1915 and 1916 were sets of five. I found but one set of four and two of three.

#### 130. Brown Thrasher

Remarkably rare. During my residence in the county I located only two pairs, one north of West Liberty near the Ohio County line and one near Bethany.

#### 131. Carolina Wren

The status of this species has curiously changed during four years of observation. During 1914 they were very abundant, in fact one of the commonest winter residents. In the fall of 1915 I discovered a nest with two fresh eggs in a neighbor's shed. These birds were prevented from going on with their nesting by the boarding up of the entrance to the nest. During 1915 I kept four nests under close observation, and collected one set of five eggs. In the winter of 1915 they seemed quite as common as before and the cheerful little fellows were among the most common guests at my feeding table. But there was a decided absence of them in the winter of 1917, for some thus far undiscovered cause. I noted the birds occasionally but was forced to record them as rare. During the following winter the species was actually missing and in the spring of 1919 during several walks about Bethany I did not even see an individual. Where the birds have gone is a mystery to me. Perhaps they will be discovered in another part of the coun-



ty, however. The strange disappearance suggests that they may be local in distribution and of a wandering nature,—though this does not agree with my conception of a wren. While I was sleeping outside in the winter of 1916 a pair of these birds used to come to the bed and perched on the places where my toes made little mountains out of the bed coverings, would scold and chatter and look suspicious when I would open my eyes or wiggle my toes.

### 132. House Wren

The status of this species is quite the reverse of the preceeding. The absence of the house wren in 1914 and 1915 was very apparent, but with the decline of the numbers of the Carolina has come an increase of the House, until in 1919 every old orchard has its gay little wrens.

### 133. Winter Wren

Regular and rather common winter resident. They are peculiar little fellows, running about like wee mice among the brush heaps.

### 134. Brown Creeper

Rather abundant winter resident.

### 135. White Breasted Nuthatch

Very common permanent resident.

### 136. Brown Headed Nuthatch

The discovery of a pair of these birds in May of 1919 caused no little wonder to me. The birds were evidently mated, from all indications, but I can scarcely think of their nesting in the county.

### 137. Tufted Tit

Abundant. I had the delightful experience of taming one of these birds so that he would eat nuts out of my hand. I did not succeed at all with the chickadees. The only Tit nest I found with eggs was in a high stub of a locust tree. The nest contained six eggs of the owner and one of the cowbird, and was placed about a foot

and half down from the entrance. It has been a matter of wonder with me whether the cowbird regularly enters the nests of such type. This is the first occurrence of such in my experience.

### 138. Chickadee

From all I can determine the Carolina form does not occur here, though it seems probable to me that it will be found.

### 139. Golden Crowned Kinglet

Abundant in fall migration and through the winter irregularly.

### 140. Ruby Crowned Kinglet

More common in spring migration than the preceeding and rarer in the winter.

### 141. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher

This is one of the most characteristic birds of the region inhabiting the open woodland. The nests are very easy to find, since the birds are not at all secretive when near their nests. During the spring of 1919 I had no less than nine nests under observation,—all of which were placed on rather low horizontal limbs. One male which I was watching was leisurely dancing about in the leaves singing his wheezy little song, when suddenly he made a direct flight to a horizontal limb where quick as a wink he settled on a nest,—having relieved the female of her duties. By the casual observer the nest would have been unnoticed since the female left in exactly the same direction that the male was headed, and the whole performance would have given the impression of the flight of but one bird. I noted such an episode but once.

### 142. Wood Thrush

Common summer resident.

### 143. Wilson Thrush

The species may nest in the county, though I have not ascertained this,



Bird of Brooks Co., W. Va. Yellow Breasted Chat, Male.  
Drawn from Life Sketches for The Oologist. By Geo. W. Sutton

**144. Gray Cheeked Thrush**

Rather common in spring migration.

**145. Olive Backed Thrush**

Abundant in migration. A few pairs remain in the county until the first week in May. It is highly doubtful that they breed here, however.

**146. Hermit Thrush**

Rather common migrant. Apparently more common in the fall.

**147. Am. Robin**

Abundant summer resident.

**148. Bluebird**

Abundant. The first individuals to appear in 1917 came on Jan. 26, with a large flock of robins.

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**With a Camera in Birdland**

By Arthur H. Farrow

It must be a source of considerable gratification to all true bird lovers to notice how the trend of events is bringing the ornithologist and the photographer together. To our mind, this is a natural order of things, as both sciences are closely related in many ways. The photographer is finding a new field of interest and unlimited possibilities for pictorial expression in birdland, while the ornithologist is using the camera to secure permanent records of his investigations. No branch of nature study is so interesting as that devoted to ornithology, but when combined with photography it becomes really fascinating.

No body realizes more fully than readers of this magazine that our native birds are one of the nation's most valuable assets, and that it is our duty, and should be our pleasure, to do everything in our power to protect and conserve them. Bird students are observing with no little concern that many species are becoming rarer each season. It is, therefore, imperative that the greatest discretion be used in taking eggs and killing specimens for their skins. Many ornithologists

realize this state of affairs and are turning to photography to aid them in their studies and investigations. Some have abandoned the collecting of eggs and skins and are using the camera to record their observations.

The ornithologist is peculiarly fitted for taking up this branch of photographic work, because one cannot become a successful bird-photographer unless a fairly general knowledge of the birds and their habits is possessed.

It seems inevitable that a bond should exist between the bird-student and the camera devotee. The bird-photographer is better equipped in every way for the study of birds and their homes because photography is the ideal recording process and can render facts, forms and texture in a manner of which no other graphic art is capable. The ornithologist who uses photography to aid him in his studies will never regret having done so, or will ever lose interest in the work.

The sporting side of making bird pictures is one of the things that will especially appeal to the outdoor man. To "shoot" a bird with a camera calls for considerably more skill than is required to kill a bird with a shotgun. The camera man has to pit his wits against the sharpest and most timid of the denizens of the woods and countryside. A series of really good pictures of birds and their nests and eggs is something that one can well be proud of, and in obtaining them one has the added satisfaction of knowing that no living thing has been ruthlessly destroyed.

Bird photography is by no means one of the easiest applications of photoplay. On the contrary, it requires considerable skill, technical knowledge, perseverance and patience. One of the secrets of success lies in being prepared. Plans should be made



Nest and Young of Catbird. By Arthur Farrow.

in advance and the possibilities and limitations of subject and photographic equipment carefully considered. The different ways in which to do the work can best be learned by experience. Patience, perseverance, and a careful study of the subject will speedily make anyone a master of the situation, and the obstacles which, when first approached, appear to be insurmountable, sink into insignificance when tackled with a determination to overcome them.

The photographing of nests and eggs is generally the first thing taken up because this part of the work presents less difficulties than the portraying of living subjects. This branch of the work is not as simple as it might at first sight appear, for it is fraught with pitfalls for the unwary novice,

and even the most experienced workers meet with failures. The nests of those birds which breed upon the ground or close it present the easiest mark to the hunter with the camera. Therefore, those nests either upon the ground or within a few feet of it should be the first to be experimented upon. It is well to remember that the photograph of a nest, to be of value from a scientific point of view, must show not only the construction of the nest itself but also the tree or shrub in which it happens to be placed; it must also show the manner in which it is fastened to its support and as much of the environments as possible. Care should be taken that the surrounding foliage is distributed as little as possible.

The next step is usually young bird



subjects. Perhaps the best time to photograph young birds off the nest is when they are just fledged and a day or two before they are able to fly.

The family group is the most desired of all bird pictures. A mother feeding her young always makes a strong appeal.

One word of caution to those who would enter this field of work. Do not start in by frightening your subjects, but rather go to them in a friendly manner and seek to gain their confidence. Remember that quietness and gentleness is the keynote to success. Do not be discouraged by preliminary failures—they are bound to come. There is one consolation, for even if your negatives are not at first all you might wish for, you will have had all the delight of watching at close quarters some of the most interesting happenings in the home life of your little feathered friends.

#### Notes on the Limicolae of the Valley of Mexico

L. R. Reynolds

The following notes are compiled from records taken on several trips to the valley of Mexico, from local collectors and from the bird catchers that devote their time to netting shore birds during the fall migration. These men bring their birds to the city for sale and as they wait for customers and make their nets, are quite willing to talk about their catches.

The Valley of Mexico in which the City of Mexico is located has an average elevation of 7500 feet and includes two large lakes. Texcoco and Xochimilco, both the resort in the fall of great flights of water birds.

Turnstone—I saw two specimens in a bird catcher's cage Oct, 14, 1919 which he said were netted the day before. To him it was not uncommon though rarely taken in the nets,

American Golden Plover—An Englishman who hunted here extensively some fifty years ago has told me that these birds were formerly exceedingly abundant and were killed and netted in great numbers. I can find no very recent records.

Killdeer—Called locally "Tildio," and everywhere abundant.

Snipe—Called by local sportsmen "Agachona."

Marbled Godwit—Have seen several specimens taken in the valley without date.

Western Sandpiper—Exceedingly abundant in the fall and taken by the netters in great as numbers as they can sell.

Least Sandpiper—Apparently not uncommon in September.

Upland Plover—This bird locally known as "Ganga;" in years past was abundant all over the valley and a favorite game bird. When here in 1918 it was still plentiful enough to afford good shooting but today while occasionally found is decidedly uncommon. It was formerly hunted from carriages, the horses being trained to gunfire. Bags of several hundred to a carriage was not uncommon as late as 1890.

Pectoral Sandpiper—Saw several small flocks about Lake Texcoco Nov. 10, 1919.

Greater Yellow Legs.

Lesser Yellow Legs—Both species are fairly common in Nov. and Dec. in the same localities as the Snipe. The netters only seem to take the species frequenting the open ground.

Wilson Plover—This bird is common in the fall and netted in numbers. Strange to say it lives well in captivity.



Nest and Eggs of Song Sparrow. By Arthur Farrow.

#### S. W. Mo. Warblers

The very appearance of the warbler tribe makes them appeal to me a field of study. Although my work is not very well suited to the study of this one tribe, I have made good progress in the last three years considering that I have spent almost no time in hunting for Warblers alone. In 1917 I spent a week fishing on the James River, where I found more of the various Warblers than I have ever seen before or after, along one half mile of river bottom, willow thicket and rocky hillside.

636, Black and White Warbler—A rather common visitor, arriving generally about April 10th to May 1st according to season. Sometimes as early as April 5th. Have never found a nest but have seen the adult bird on the nest on June 27th, July 17th and several August dates.

637, Prothonothary Warbler. One

specimen, an adult male was seen July 16th, 1917.

638, Swanison Warbler. Seen twice, August 19th and July 17th 1917. August 10th the bird seen was at Brouns Spring, eleven miles east. On July 17th the bird seen was at James River, 25 miles southeast.

639, Worm-eating Warbler. One pair was seen July 18th, 1917 in the same vicinity with the others. It was very much agitated but we failed to locate a nest or young.

641, Blue Winged Warbler. One pair was found back of an old road from the river, July 17th, 1917. These also were nervous from the proximity of their nest but we failed to locate it although we knew it was close by.

645 and 646, the Orange Crowned Warbler and the Nashville Warblers are both of regular occurrence along streams. But without good field glasses one can not distinguish be-

tween them at a distance. However, I have seen both species at close quarters.

648, Parula Warbler. My first Parula Warbler was a magnificent male April 15th, 1915, near an old mill stream, but on July 16th, 1917 our first observation on the river was the nest of a Parula, overhanging the river. From the noise there were four nestlings and the adults were too busy to care for our presence so we studied them to our hearts content. The nest was about sixty feet up in the outer limbs of a sycamore, so we did not try to reach it.

652, Yellow Warbler—A common resident, very abundant and becomes abundant May 1st to 15th.

655, Myrtle Warbler—A common and regular resident and in great numbers, arriving about April 5th to 15th according to season.

657, Magnolia Warbler—A common, though irregular migrant which reaches here about May 1st or later.

663, Sycamore Warbler—Saw my first specimen of this species on August 13th, 1915, also it happens to be the last one up to date. It is a very uncommon bird in this vicinity.

673, Prairie Warbler—Uncertain. On June 27, 1917 a small Warbler was seen but the birds declined to be still long enough so failed to be sure. However, the five observers are satisfied of its identity.

674, Ovenbird—Seen on the river July 18th, 1917. Does not seem to be very common as only a few individuals were seen at that time.

675, Waterthrush—A very common migrant on the river and along the streams in the first half of May.

676, Louisiana Water Thrush—A common resident along the river, nesting close to the water's edge, generally close to roots, but sometimes in rocky clefts or in small pockets in the bank.

677, Kentucky Warbler—A rather scarce summer resident in improved parts or along the creeks, for I located one's haunts on an island in the river on July 19th, 1917, where the nest, if it were there, as the birds made one believe, surely was in danger of flooding.

678, Connecticut Warbler—Three birds were seen on April 27th, 1916 as I went to town. They were rather tame and allowed a close inspection.

679, Mourning Warbler—A rather uncommon species as I see only two or three birds each year, sometimes none at all.

681, Maryland Yellow Throat—A very common resident in summer.

683, Yellow Breasted Chat—Very common summer resident.

684, Hooded Warbler—A fairly common summer resident. A few birds can be found in the valleys any day during the summer time.

687, Redstart—An exceedingly common summer resident, the commonest of the whole family in the Ozark region, and can be seen and heard any time of the day along the streams.

Johnson Neff.

Marionville, Mo.

#### Notes From South Dakota

In bird study our state offers many perplexing problems. In the southeast corner we have the humid area with its natural woods which provides an environment for many eastern species as the Cardinal, Thrushes, etc.; and also boasts of once having harbored the Wild Turkey and Passenger Pigeon.

The Missouri River, with its wooded banks and ravines, running from north to south through middle of the state offers a condition that attracts some species that perhaps would not otherwise visit us. The beautiful Western Blue Grosbeak can be mentioned as an example. Here, but in

no other locality, the writer has seen this bird nesting fairly common more than halfway through the state.

The semi-arid prairies and plains either side of the Missouri River, particularly west, attracts the Lark Bunting, Nighthawks, longspurs, Horned Larks and Meadowlarks.

The pine clad Black Hills and coniferous Forest Reserves of the northwestern part of the state provides a home for many western species that are usually supposed to inhabit only the Rocky Mountain region. Western Robin, Townsend's Solitaire, White-winged Junco, Dusky Grouse and Clark's Nutcracker are some of these western visitors.

Between the Missouri River and the Black Hills we have the Badlands affording nesting places for the Rock Wrens, White-throated Swifts and Mountain Bluebirds. Again in the state the many and increasing groves are attracting eastern species farther west and perhaps, to some extent, changing their old established paths of migration.

The early settlers in the territory were followed by the Quail, Prairie Chicken, Crow, etc. In the northeastern part of the state the draining of sloughs, intensive farming and pasturing has entirely driven away shore and waterbirds that formerly nested here by the thousands.

Thus bird records are ever changing; observations made a few years ago are not authentic today and observations made today may not hold good tomorrow. The individual or institution that desired a complete collection of South Dakota Birds, Eggs, and nests will indeed find it a difficult problem unless they began years ago. But these conditions are true in most of our states, however it makes bird study none the less interesting.

But with all these diversified conditions existing in South Dakota there is in no area a dearth of birdlife. Even in the Badlands with its glittering heat and scarcity of water, some birds are fairly common as the Cliff Swallows, Sparrow Hawks, Rock Wrens, Kingbirds and Prairie Falcons. In the grassy valleys and tablelands adjoining, and in fact over the whole plains country are seen many Lark Sparrows, Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks and Lark Buntings; while in the thickets along the creeks may be found Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Sparrows. Chewinks and Yellow-breasted Chats. In the larger trees Kingbirds, Bullock's Oriole, Flickers, Screech Owls and Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks find nesting places. Birds that are common over the state may be mentioned, the Western Meadowlark, Kingbirds, Arkansas Kingbird, Lark Sparrow, Cowbird, Crow, Sparrow Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird and Flickers.

Our resident birds, meaning birds that do not migrate at all, include Cardinals, Screech Owls, Quails, Chickadees, Canada Jays and Pinion Jays. Those that migrate only a short distance are the Prairie Chicken, Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, Crow, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, some Hawks and Owls.

While collecting in the Badlands during August, 1914, we frequently saw Western Lark Sparrows, Lark Buntings and Cowbirds flocking together, resting together and feeding together. Whether they were forced into this intimate association by seeking the same shelter under cutbanks from the intense heat, or drawn together by some other attraction I do not know.

On a wooded island in the Missouri River in August 1919, we often saw Black and White Warblers and Chick-



adees feeding together. In shade trees along a resident street of Vermillion for several nights I have seen Bronzed Grackles, English Sparrows and Robins roosting side by side on the same branch. What affinity between different species prompted these actions?

At present 319 species and subspecies are recorded in the state. Further study and observation will add a few more to the list.

W. H. Over.

#### A Mistake

A few days ago I discovered a pair of Blue Birds building a nest in the eaves of the well house and there were also English Sparrows nesting in about the same places. As it is a well known fact that if a person expects to have a native bird build around his home he must get rid of the English (Pirate) Sparrow. So the only thing in sight for me was to get a good 22 rifle for the job. I got the rifle out one morning and was slaughtering the sparrows right and left, when I saw what I took to be a sparrow (with straw in its bill) light right by the nest. Thinking that it was one of those well known "Pirates" I let go at long range shot hitting it in the center of the head. But to my surprise I found out that I had killed the female Blue Bird instead of a Sparrow. I sure felt badly over my mistake because I was taking so much pains to see that this pair of Blue Birds would not be bothered by the pesky Sparrows.

Well, this happened about 9 o'clock in the morning. The male Blue Bird called in vain for its mate for an hour, then disappeared. At 15 minutes after twelve (same day) he returned with another mate, and twenty-eight minutes later his new mate flew into the nest with a straw in her bill, now the nest is complete and ready for the

eggs. What do you think of this for speed? Have any of our readers heard of such quick case of mating as this one? What is your view, Mr. Editor?

Earl E. Moffat,  
Marshall, Texas.

My first set of the season (1920) is the little structure of an Anna Hummingbird which I "spotted" setting on her two small white eggs on March 25th. The nest was placed on the first limb of a small pepper tree about eight feet up.

Emerson A. Stoner.  
Benicia, California.

Mr. Moore, of Vernon, Texas, in his letter in the current number of THE OOLOGIST, expresses, better than I could do it myself, my own sentiments regarding the dear little magazine, a copy of which I never pick up without experiencing a rush of fond boyhood memories. We will never let THE OOLOGIST die!

E. F. Pope.

Bohemian Waxwings have been abundant here this winter. The winter of 1916-17 is the only other record that I have for the species on the west side of the Cascade Mts. in Washington.  
J. H. Bowles.  
Tacoma, Wash. The Woodstock.

#### Notice

With this issue of the Oologist all subscription cards numbered less than 393 are removed from our filing list. Look at the label on your envelope and renew at once without fail, if it shows a number less than 393, otherwise you may not be able to get a complete file because with the ever increasing price of paper, plates and printing costs we cannot print many extra copies.  
Editor.

# North American B I R D S E G G S

FOR EXCHANGE

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## An Unusual Opportunity

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I have on hand, to offer for exchange for specimens desired by me, three hundred and one different varieties of birds eggs. Of some species I have but one set, of others considerable series. Send me a list of what you have for exchange and if it contains anything I want I will send you my list in reply.

Some specimens that I have for exchange are very rare and hard to get, and others are of the common varieties.

This is an unusual opportunity to secure new specimens or to enlarge series in your collection.

R. M. BARNES,

LACON, ILL.

## THE OOLOGIST

**WANTED**—Common sets of all kinds ornithological magazines, bird skins. Will pay reasonable prices. What have you? Will be in the Exchange market in spring. **JOHNSON A. NEFF, P. O. Box 9, Marionville, Mo.**

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**I HAVE** over 100 kinds of Fresh Water mussels to sell or exchange for same or skins or eggs. **DR. W. S. STRODE, Lewiston, Ill.**

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**WANTED TO PURCHASE** for cash, entire collection of North American Birds Eggs. None are too large or too small if they contain material I can use. **R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.**

---

**WANTED**—For Cash or Exchange: Oologists for Dec. 1902; June and July, 1912; April and May, 1918; Jan. and Feb. 1919. Also who can offer any of the following complete volumes: Oologist, 1903 to 1912 inclusive? **J. WARREN JACOBS, Waynesburg, Pa.**

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**WANTED**—Sets or singles of Hawks, crows, bluejays, sandpipers, waxwings, grackles, blackbirds, warblers in quantities for cash. Also Duck Hawks. **KARL A. PEMBER, Woodstock, Vt.**

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## THE

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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 8.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 400





## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A-1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED—A pair of living Sand Hill Cranes A. O. U. No. 306, taken north of the center of the U. S. If the birds are only slightly wingtipped this will not matter. For them I will pay a good price. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTS SETS of 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-305-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYL, Maplewood, N. J.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—To Trade birds eggs in sets—almost any kind. Also will buy birds eggs in sets. Senr lists right away. ARTHUR BLOCHER, Box 404, Amboy, Illinois.

WANTED—Complete set of "Condor". I have a small collection of sea birds' eggs, excellent for duplicates, that I am offering for this set. THEODORE R. GREER, Sheridan, Ill.

DR. CLECKLEY'S HAND EGG Blow Pipe, suitable for all fresh eggs and for rinsing eggs after blowing. Sent prepaid with full instructions for \$1.25. Endorsed and used by many prominent Oologists. DR. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, 457 Green St., Augusta, Ga.

WANTED FOR CASH—Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; American Ornithology, Vols. 5 and 6; The Bittern, complete file. I will also pay a good cash price for any of the following sets, if 1st class in every respect and with original data: A. O. U. No. 288, 328, 419, 427, with skins of both male and female and nest. B. S. GRIFFIN, 22 Currier Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

FOR SALE—Birds of California, parts 1 and 2 by Beal, \$1.00. A. E. DAVIES, 1327 Grove St., Berkeley, Cal.

BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

THE BAILEY MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY, Newport News, Va., desires to secure through exchange or purchase, small mammal skins, and a collection of bird skins and eggs. Submit lists and price. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWER, Willard, Mo.

I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco. Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

WANTED—A Cedar Waxwing's nest in good condition. Will pay cash for it. E. T. STUART, 1527 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

FOR DISPOSAL—A large series of sets with nests of Swainson's Warblers. Choice Cabinet Specimens. Make offer. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Enclose 2c stamp for reply. DR. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, Augusta, Ga.

WANTED—Good mounted specimens of birds, animals, fish, game heads, horns, fur rugs and all kind of taxidermic goods. Send particulars and best price. No bird skins wanted. M. J. HOFMAN, Taxidermist, 989 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

WANTED—Edison Cylinder Phonograph records. Send list. Also an attachment to play four minute records. Also desire bird skin exchange. O. M. GREENWOOD, Manchester, Ia.

FOR SALE—Bird Lore, 100 single, 13 odd volumes, \$1.25 each; Condor, vol. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and singles; Portraits of

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 8

ALBION, N. Y., AUG. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 400

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



Nest and Eggs of Cerulean Warbler in Collection of S. S. Dickey

Days With the Cerulean Warbler  
(*Dendroica Cerulea*)

By S. S. Dickey, Washington, Pa.

The Cerulean Warbler, as a summer resident in Eastern North America, ranges as far north as southern Ontario, as far west as Nebraska, and south to Louisiana and Texas. The bird is not common in the states of the Alleghany mountains, and in many places does not occur at all. The species breeds mainly in the Austral zones. Western New York, western Pennsylvania and western West Virginia seem to be favorite haunts of these Warblers, for in these places they are quite plentiful. They winter in northern South America.

..*Dendroica cerulea* is a bird of the tree-tops, spending most of its time in the upper parts of the woodland and seldom descending to the undergrowth. It gleans harmful insects and larvae (of the orders, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Hemiptera) from the opening buds and tender leaves. Nature seems to have provided this species especially to protect the higher foliage of our woods. While they flit about the branches these Warblers continually utter a sweet song, resembling the notes, zee-zee-zee, zweep; with the ending note of a higher pitch than the preceding ones. The male bird does the singing, while the female prepares the nest or incubates her eggs. Since the birds seclude themselves in the upper foliage, about the only way to locate the haunts of a pair is to wait for the male's song. He sings frequently and remains in the neighborhood of a few trees seldom leaving the chosen cluster.

The Cerulean Warblers arrive in southwestern Pennsylvania late in April or early May. Immediately upon their arrival the birds sing incessantly and may be found in any of the woods that lie on the top or sides of

ridges which abound in this section of the state. For several years I have heard their sweet song all through the month of May, but the birds did not seem plentiful, so I decided they were mere migrants. However, on May 11, 1905, I went to a woods that lay on a ridge and was fortunate enough to find the Cerulean nesting. I caught sight of a female carrying building material to a horizontal branch, forty feet up in a white oak. May 24 I returned to the woods and upon ascending the tree found the female Warbler at home upon four eggs of her own and one of the cowbird, *Molothrus ater*. The nest was a neat affair of inner bark strips, weed strips, and fine grass, coated on the outside with light colored weed strips, spider cocoons, and pieces of white decayed wood. This nest rested partly upon a horizontal limb of two inch thickness and was supported by several upright twigs. During several succeeding seasons I heard the Ceruleans singing and twice found nests that had been blown from the trees by severe wind storms.

I had passed the two seasons prior to 1914 in other parts of Pennsylvania, where I had no opportunity for studying the Cerulean Warbler. However, during May and early June, 1914, the Ceruleans were more plentiful than ever before, some woods containing four or five pairs of the birds.

May 14, while I was examining a nest of the blue-gray gnat-catcher, in an open woods of oaks, high up on a hillside, I spied a Cerulean Warbler which gathered some building material and flitted off through the trees. I was not long in again getting a glimpse of it, and soon traced it to a horizontal fork of a small white oak tree. Several times I saw the bird return to the fork and weave building material about the nest foundation.



Series of Nests of the Cerulean Warblers. Prepared by S. S. Dickey.

May 26, I again entered the woods and made my way to the tree that held the nest. I found the female sitting upon four greenish-white eggs, beautifully wreathed and speckled with vandyke brown.

May 18, I crossed the creek which lies below town and walked up a high ridge to a woods of mixed growth, consisting principally of sugar maples, white ashes, American lindens, yellow locusts, slippery elms, American beeches and red and white oaks. Two male ceruleans were singing as I approached the place, but a tiring search revealed no nests. Upon going farther out the ridge I detected a male singing and was so fortunate as to see the female as she gleaned insects or larvae from the foliage of a red oak. By keeping a careful watch I was enabled to follow her to the nest. It was built in a horizontal sugar maple branch and was hidden in a cluster of leaves. By climbing a red oak tree I was close enough to the nest to see that it held two eggs. Two days later I returned to the nest and found the female sitting upon

four eggs. These were quite faintly marked specimens in comparison to a number of others which I examined. The nest was built 25 feet above the ground, was composed of fine bark strips and fine dry grass, and was decorated with light colored weed strips, spider cocoons, and pieces of white rotten wood.

May 22, I went to search for Cerulean's nests in an extensive woods of oaks which partly lies in deep ravine and extends over a neighboring ridge and down its farther side. Several males were singing as I entered the woods, but it was some time before a female could be found. Finally, as I passed along a path near the entrance to the ravine, I saw a female feeding in some low branches of a hickory. I watched this bird a while and soon she evaded me, flitting away through the higher foliage. Upon crossing the hill I heard several males singing from the tops of some giant oaks, but they were so far away that watching them was impossible. Late in the afternoon, as I passed the upper border of an arm of the woods, I heard a



male cerulean singing incessantly. Accidentally I glanced toward a horizontal branch, some fifty feet up in a huge white oak tree. There, a short distance out in a horizontal fork, sat a female Cerulean on her nest. It was in an open space among the branches and easily discernible from the ground. I was soon up the tree and peering into the nest upon the four fine eggs which it held. The eggs of this set were the most heavily marked specimens I have yet seen from *Dendroica cerulea*. They were quite well spotted with yellowish-brown, especially about the larger ends.

May 24, I visited a small woods not far from town and found a Cerulean's nest built 18 feet up in a white ash tree that bordered a wheat field. The nest was saddled to a horizontal branch and was supported by upright twigs. It held two eggs at this time, so I descended the tree. When I had gone away a short distance I happened to look back. A male Towhee had lit near the nest and the female Warbler dashed at him, striking him and causing him to hurry away. Some days later I saw a male Cerulean strike a male yellow Warbler which chanced to trespass on the Cerulean's favorite oak. Upon returning to the preceding nest some days later I found it deserted and the eggs gone.

Late in the afternoon of May 27, I visited two woods that lie within a half mile of town. In each I had, a few days since, located nests of the Cerulean Warbler. Both were occupied and held set of four eggs each. The first was 50 feet up, saddled on a horizontal white ash limb. The second was 25 feet up on a drooping branch of a white ash tree that stood by the side of the woods. The females were sitting at these nests and made considerable demonstration at my presence.

Early in June two more nests were found. One, found on June 1, was a second nest of the pair of birds, the first having been deserted. It was built in the fork of a slender white ash branch, 30 feet above the ground. The female sat closely upon two slightly incubated eggs. June 2, I discovered a nest 30 feet up on a long white oak branch. This nest, too, was a second one for the pair of birds, since the first had been deserted. The female sat on three eggs, and the following day she still had but three.

Nests of this Warbler are quite distinct, being much more shallow than those of the Redstart; and they are also wider. The measurements of nests and eggs examined by myself are:

May 24, 1905. Four eggs and one of the parasitic cowbird, .65 x .51, .64 x .52, .64 x .52, 65 x .52. These eggs are quite heavily wreathed with vandyke brown and sprinkled sparsely with small dots. The nest measures 2.80 wide x 1.85 deep, outside; and 1.80 wide x 1.70 deep inside.

May 20, 1914. 4 eggs, .65 x .50, .65 x .48, .64 x .49; .62 x .49. The eggs of this set are rather sparsely spotted about the larger ends with reddish brown and lilac and are somewhat sprinkled with fine dots over the remainder of the shell surface. The nest measures 2.46 in. wide x 2. deep, outside; 1.75 wide x 1.35 deep, inside.

May 22, 1914. 4 eggs, .64 x .50, .62 x .48, .64 x .50, .64 x .48. These eggs are heavily spotted over the larger ends with yellowish brown and are also considerably spotted over the remainder of the shell surface. The nest measures: 2.75 wide x 1.67 deep, outside; 1.80 wide x 1. deep inside.

May 26, 1914. 4 eggs: .63 x .50, .60 x .51, .64 x .52, .60 x .52. These eggs have the most greenish ground color of any in the series. They are well



Series of Nests of Cerulean. Prepared by S. S. Dickey

wreathed and sprinkled with reddish brown and lavender. The nest measures: 2.60 wide x 1.63 deep, outside; and 1.80 wide x 1. deep, inside.

May 27, 1914. 4 eggs: .69 x .50, .67 x .49, .67 x .50. These eggs are wreathed with spots of light and dark reddish-brown and contain very few dots on the remaining shell surface. The nest measures: 2.75 wide x 1.70 deep, outside; and 1.90 wide x 1.10 deep, inside.

May 27. 4 eggs: .64 x .52, .65 x .50, .64 x .52, .65 x .51. These eggs have the lightest ground color of any in the series, having just a mere tinge of greenish on them. They are spotted and wreathed quite heavily with light brown. The nest measures 2.75 wide x 1.90 deep, outside; and 1.80 wide x 1.10 deep, inside.

June 1, 1914. 2 eggs: .70 x .51 and .69 x .50. These eggs have a decided greenish tinge and are lightly wreathed with reddish-brown. The remainder of the shell surface contains very few fine dots. The nest measures 2.45 wide x 1.75 deep, outside; and 1.70 wide x 1.25 deep, inside.

June 2, 1914. 3 eggs: .64 x .52, .60 x .50, .61 x .48. These eggs are very lightly marked and contain small wreaths about their larger ends. Small dots are found all over the remaining surface. The nest measures: 2.65 x 1.65 deep, outside; and 1.70 wide x 1.05 deep, inside.

#### Cold Weather Birds

On January 21st, a beautiful bright day, 12 below zero all day and with three feet of snow, mostly in drifts, I saw a flock of about twenty Snowflakes, the first I have seen for a number of years. My nephew said he had seen several flocks.

G. W. VOS BURGH.

#### Nesting of the Goshawk

Ever since my experience with the nesting of the Goshawk several years ago I have been on the lookout to again locate them. On several occasions in midsummer, I have seen an adult flying across some mountain valley but not until this spring have I been able to again find their nesting haunts. March 28th while looking about the hollow of a nearby stream

I saw a pair of Goshawks fly past low down just over the tree top. This hollow or valley is all wooded and there was a chance they were located there somewhere. I searched quite thoroughly about the head of this valley and found two large and likely looking nests for future reference. Also paid a visit to a large maple that is sometimes used by Mrs. Barred Owl. I found her at home on one egg.

Three days later I searched the hollow quite thoroughly but saw no sign of the hawks and found that Mrs. Owl had only laid 2 eggs, although 3 is the usual number here.

On April 4th the ground, trees, brush and all was covered with snow. I visited the big nests and some smaller ones that I had found but without seeing anything of the Hawks. Rains, snow and generally bad weather interfered with my plans then and not until April 25th did I get after them again. This was a fine day, quite warm and sunny. I went up through the hollow again but nothing stirring at the nests. I did hear Pileated Woodpecker in one part of the woods where I had noticed them before this spring and one week later I visited this vicinity and after a short search found the nest in a big beech with a dead top, also found a Cooper's Hawk at home at one of the big nests, but left this for my next trip which will include a camera.

Over the ridge from the stream is a quite large stream about 7 miles long flowing through an entirely uninhabited region. There are small branches or spring runs flowing into this stream and about the heads of some of these heavily wooded ravines, I turned my search. About the head of one of these ravines as I was moving slowly along I came upon a couple of black squirrels, so sat down a few minutes to rest and watch them.

While sitting there a Goshawk began calling just to one side. I looked around and close by saw a large nest in a beech. I walked over under it and stood there. The old Hawk kept up quite a fuss but came no closer. While standing under the tree, I saw another large and promising looking nest in a beech just to one side and partly hidden by several large hemlocks. I went over and stood under this one and the old Hawk at once got much more excited and came quite close. I shinned one of the hemlocks, the old Hawk making just one ugly dive at me, and got above the nest, so I could look over in it.

There I saw 4 big eggs and it didn't take me long to get down out of the hemlock and tackle the beech. This beech was a big smooth one and slippery as glass and a tough proposition to shin. On my way up the old bird made a fuss and occasionally made a dive for me, coming so close that it seemed sure there would be a collision between her and my head. She didn't seem quite so vicious though, as those on former occasions. The male must have been on a long forging trip for he did not appear at all on the scenery while I was there. I expected that the eggs would be just about ready to hatch so I took one out of the nest and with the point of my knife blade I pecked a small hole in which I felt around with a thin sliver of wood. Although badly incubated they were not near so far along as I had feared. I knew they could be saved nicely so I took them along and arrived home several hours later richer by a good set of 4 Goshawk.

This nest was 40 feet from the ground in a large beech in heavy mixed woods and was at least 3 miles from the nearest farm or clearing. The nest was large and quite a bulky

affair and rather flat top. It looked as if it had been used several seasons, new material being added each year. The only lining was a few finer twigs and a little pieces of beech bark. The four eggs were larger in measurements than my set of three that I got several years ago. I think the Hawk will use these nests again and hope to pay them a call another season.

R. B. Simpson,  
Warren, Pa.

#### Albino Robin at Springfield, Illinois

A partially albino Robin was observed near Springfield, Ill on May 31, 1920. The bird presented so strange an appearance that the writer was puzzled for the moment as to its identity, but an examination through the field glass soon removed any doubt. The head, throat and breast were pure white, merging into rufous-red of the normal robin shade on the belly; tail black or blackish; wings and back variegated white and blackish slate-color; bill straw-yellow. The flight and actions of the bird were characteristic.

A. D. Du Bois.

#### Another Albino Robin

Charles F. Perkins of Weeping Water, Nebr., recently killed and mounted a pure Albino Robin, and has thereby gotten himself into more or less hot water with the local Audubon Society, and the U. S. Government for violating the Migratory Bird treaty law.

#### Hawks

"I wonder if you had any report as to the number of Hawks this year. I have never seen so many of them. Between Mr. Bent and myself we have located over forty nests, including 333, 343, 337, 339. Every place

where I have ever found a Red Shoulder's nest had one in it this year. In one case the bird came back to the same old nest after the absence of eight years."

Chester S. Day,  
Boston, Mass.

#### North Dakota Birds of Coulee and Moraine

For the fourteenth time, last June, I visited my favorite Yellow Rail nesting grounds. For the first time I was unsuccessful. The birds were strangely erratic; and the covert where I found them dense. But, oh, the lure! Sadly fewer, most of the water birds, the ducks. But the Sharp-tailed Grouse were abundant, about the willow copses. A few drakes, of sundry kinds, were dabbling in the springs that bordered one section of the coulee. With them were two male Willets, quite as strident as ever, when they were flushing. Rarely, of an afternoon, a Godwit would wing his majestic way, above me; imperiously questioning my presence in his wide domain. Rarely, more so than of old, a male Wilson Phalarope would flush, hysterically, from his nest, and away he would flutter, gasping and quacking. Of the instant, out from the nowhere, would come darting two or three elegant females; and the fugitive sitter would have a sorry time of it, with his impulsive dodging of the amazonian suitresses.

While trying to locate the nest of Short-billed Marsh Wrens. But Gerard Allan Abbott had been there before me), I suddenly jumped out of my tracks at the sound of the watchman's rattle of a Bittern. She budged not, as I approached, but dared me, with lusty snarlings. Two days later I set up my camera in front of her; whereat she flew into a rage. Backward, and still backward, I moved the tri-



pod; finally, in sheer desperation, being compelled to grasp the creature by the beak and legs, and throw her into the air, that she might return to her nest, again. A Blue-winged Teal was sighted, three feet away, upon her nest, amid the crinkly grasses. Here and there, all about, I was saddened to find nests not a few of Mallards and Shovellers that had been despoiled by vermin.

Amid the intensity and the persistence of my search for nests of the Rails that clicked their rhythmic callings, all about, I found a quiet delight in listening to the "winnowing" of a Wilson Snipe. All of three afternoons and three morning did I listen to him, watching him, as, with every downward dip, the piping of his wings trickled out, so wierdly, upon the up-per air.

One sunny forenoon, I caught him at a new trick. Alighting on a fence-post some forty rods away, he ecstatically uttered an intensely "Tick-ber-tick-ber-tick-ber," thirty-two, forty-six, seventy-four times, without stopping! At first I deemed him solicitous at my presence; but the distance gave an emphatic negative, to that surmise. In fitful change, he rapidly rose in the air, and came hurtling to a post, not far from where I was wallowing amid the quaking bogs. Upon a nearby post he seated himself, and kept glancing about, bright-eyed, yet not overly solicitous.

In gentling mood, I moved toward him, with slowness, emphasized more and more, the closer I approached. Not a sign of slightest fear gave he. And when, at last, he quietly flew, without sign of alarm, I found that I had been standing but six feet away from his post.

Lustily blew the wind that afternoon, and brilliant clouds provoked camerizing with a view to limning the

plant-environ of that markedly-rich breeding ground of the Rails. Upon a little hummock, amid the willows and the docks, I set up a buffalo skull, lifted out of deep mire. At the very moment when I was lifting the camera for a shifting of a different type of environ, right up from before my very feet there fluttered, anxiously crying, the mate of my soaring, winnowing Snipe. With many a cry, she dropped among the bogs, a few feet from where I stood; and there went through the throes of death agony. (This is the second time I have had this rare experience and in both cases it has seemed strange, indeed, that eggs in the nests were not half incubated, that fifth of June.)

Little luck had I, those fine June days, with the finding of the nests of land birds. Crossing the "hog-wallow" to my coulee, the very first morning, I did, indeed, flush, most unusually, a Baird Sparrow from her magnificently spotted set of eggs. But positively naught else did I find save a brood of Western Meadow Larks in a deeply-canopied nest amid the curly grass, beneath a pasture fence. Sad to relate, not an Upland Plover did I find, in all that early June sojourn. This is the first experience of that sort in fifteen years. McCown Longspurs, also, were fewer than ever before. How I missed their blythe "Trillisth," with the wonted hoverings above the newly-sprouted grain and the field-side of virgin prairie! But, ah, the ecstasy of my bouts with dear little "Ornatus!" Even more common than of old did I find this exquisite bird, rarely beautiful of plumage, splendidly brilliant of song. Words could not express my joy as, of evenings, not long before the 9:30 hour of sunset, I watched and listened to the little fellows, both sexes, animatedly, almost hysterically, hunting

for food, over the stony morains. Here the granite boulders of many hues, with their exquisite growths of lichen, vied with the rarely dainty prairie flowers in giving a fine atmosphere of wild beauty to the scene. Fearless, and ever vocal were the tiny birds, and the rarest pleasure fell to my lot as I watched them, first mounting upward, with that exquisitely modulated "Ru-der-it," and then darting as impetuously downward, to the crown of some little boulder, there to renew the medley of their song. How one longed for the facile brush of the trained artist and the pen of a "ready writer." How tranquil the joy of the homeward tramps, as the afternoons were a'waning. Atop some distant hill-top there may be barked a fox. Along some vetch-bestudded hillside there would flutter and divinely sing a bevy of Lark Buntings. Down among the little ponds of a rolling morainic pasture, the stercorarious "Lib-lib-lib-lib" of Burrowing Owls veered me from my direct way, to find their eyrie, with little trouble, among the rocks that bordered a tiny slough. An old badger-hole, perhaps, it was, but the approach was deeply carpeted with powdered horse manure. What was it all for? one asks, really wanting to know. It is to attract flies.

On the last day, bidding good bye to my beloved hill-top of boulders, with their marvelous patterns and colors of lichens, I reached, just before sunset the secluded little garden of my good hostess. How little could one have foreseen that all that nurtured beauty and use was to be utterly wiped out ten days later by a pitiless hail-storm!

Hastily sprucing up a bit, I hastened to a nearby home where were gathered a Sunday School class of splendid boys with their characterful teacher,

a bevy of high school girls, two or three manly, men and my hostess with two or three other matrons. And, how those boys did listen and listen, as I quietly talked to them of the mysteries and the fascinations of bird migration! The appointed hour was well spent, long indeed, before any of us knew it.

Going again, next year? Yes, indeed! Thanks to a generous bird-lover of the Far West. What a fine old world this world is, anyhow!

P. B. Peabody.

#### Collecting Local Bird Names

A somewhat unique form of study, which sometimes appeals to the bird student, is the collection of the characteristic local names given birds by the residents of the community where he resides.

As very few people possess more than a passing interest in birds when they are seen and never take the trouble to learn their correct names it is not strange that curious and interesting names are given our birds. Only the more common water and land birds come in for their local names as the more timid species, which love the protection of dense woods and heavy undergrowth escape the notice of the unobserving country folk or pedestrians who do not know that such birds exist. Often, when one tells another that he has seen seventy-five or more different birds about his home in one year, the other wears a look of incredulity. One hears people say that they did not know that there were twenty varieties of birds in the county, yet at least that many species could be seen without going outside their yard, had they taken the trouble of looking for them.

If these peculiar local names from all sections of our country could be

assembled in one book, it undoubtedly would be a large volume, and if the meaning of these names were to accompany them, it would make very interesting reading, as some of these names have been in use for several decades. It is the hope of the writer, that when others read these lines, they will be encouraged to contribute their "local lists" to these columns and we may thereby learn of the local birds names in use in different parts of the country.

One of the most interesting names to be found in this part of Iowa, is the "Rain Crow," given to the Yellow Billed Cuckoo. A good many farmers have faith in this bird as a weather prophet and believe that when the bird sings, if the notes can be called singing, rain will follow shortly. Many farmers will relate times when this country needed rain badly, the Cuckoos were heard singing and rain came up and saved the crops. I have known the Cuckoo to be a prophet of rain many times, but I do not think it sung because it knew rain was on the way. The Cuckoo's time to sing is during very hot and sultry weather when the sky is filled with great rainy looking clouds and one seldom hears them at any other time, excepting at night, to hear a Cuckoo singing in the middle of the night is a rare privilege but it makes one think of the Cuckoo as a bird of mystery. In the day time even the quality of the Cuckoo's notes are apt to give one a peculiar feeling but in the dark of night they sound so weird and uncanny that only a small amount of imagination is required to make them seem ghost-like. It is not strange that in the days of witches and ghosts this bird was held in awe by superstitious persons.

Here the Herons are called by a variety of names. The common one

is "Poke," but I have never learned the meaning of this name. The Black Crowned Night Heron is called "Blue Crane." The Green Heron is called "Black Crane," and the Great Blue Heron is sometimes called "Stork."

The large family of Hawks are known chiefly as Chicken Hawks but Owls are rare in this part of the state and only one species has been given a local name. This is the Barred Owl, which is called the "Hoot Owl."

Very few people who are not interested in birds are acquainted with the Whip-poor-will because of its nocturnal life, but the Night Hawk is usually thought to be a Whip-poor-will and many people never learn the difference.

Of course it is only natural that the Brown Thrashers will be called "Brown Thrushes," "Juncos," "Snowbirds," "Chimney Swifts," "Chimney Swallows," "Shrikes," "Butcherbirds," and the Goldfinches," "Wild Canaries," because these names fit them well, but it is hard to understand why the Killdeer should be called a "Snipe," and the Wilson Snipe called "Snipe-O." Many of the older men will tell you how abundant the little "Snipe-O" used to be when they were boys.

Some other common names in this part of the country are "Yellow-hammers," (Flickers), "Mud-hens" (Am. Coot), "Turtle Dove" (Mourning Dove.), and most of all the Sparrows known as ground birds.

The Bobolink is occasionally called "Skunkbird," because the black and white markings on its back somewhat resemble those of a skunk.

The Bob White is also given a queer name of "More-Wet," but it is not used very much. The Bob White is also often considered a weather prophet and when it persistently calls "More Wet," in the summer, many farmers believe that rain is on

the way. The Bob White also delights in calling during and after rain so one is left to imagine what is meant when one is heard calling.

Doubtless many other names are used in this part of the country but the ones given above are all that the writer knows of.

Fred J. Pierce,  
Wintrop, Ia.

#### **Bird Banding Work Being Taken Over By the Biological Survey**

The Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., has taken over the work formerly carried on under the auspices of the Linnaean Society of New York by the American Bird Banding Association. In taking over this work the Bureau feels that it should express the debt that students of ornithology in this country owe to Mr. Howard H. Cleaves for the devotion and success with which he has conducted this investigation up to a point where it has outgrown the possibilities of his personal supervision.

Under plans now being formulated this work will give a great amount of invaluable information concerning the migration and distribution of North American birds which will be of direct service in the administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as of much general scientific interest.

It is desired to develop this work along two principal lines: first, the trapping and banding of waterfowl, especially ducks and geese, on both their breeding and winter grounds; and secondly, the systematic trapping of land birds as initiated by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, the early results of which have been published by him in the proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York, No. 31, 1919, pp. 23-55. It is planned to enlist the in-

terest and services of volunteer workers, who will undertake to operate and maintain trapping stations throughout the year, banding new birds and recording the data from those previously banded. The results from a series of stations thus operated will undoubtedly give new insight into migration routes; speed of travel during migration; longevity of species; affinity for the same nesting site year after year; and, in addition, furnish a wealth of information relative to the behavior of the individual, heretofore impossible because of the difficulty of keeping one particular bird under observation.

The details of operation are now receiving close attention, and as soon as possible the issue of bands will be announced, with full information regarding the methods to be followed and the results expected. In the meantime, the Biological Survey will be glad to receive communications from those sufficiently interested and satisfactorily located to engage in this work during their leisure time, for it is obvious that a considerable part must be done by volunteer operators. It is hoped that a sufficient number will take this up to insure the complete success of the project.

E. W. Nelson,  
Chief of Bureau.

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#### **A Letter**

I have noted your call for copy, several times, for publication on the Oologist, and thought of sending something; and now, just at this time, when the new order of things is so changed, and permits to collect eggs must not only be secured from the state but from the Federal Government as well, it would seem not out of place to give a little encouragement to those who may seem inclined to falter in our ranks.



You know that from time to time, some great (?) and learned (?) critic jumps upon the neck of the oologist, and the more ignorant the critic seems of the subject in hand, the more vehement his tirade. All this is discouraging to many good observers and some of the best of oologists, who have been given to go about their work with a sparing hand, and with a conscience clear and worthy an honest worker.

Only when one has the experience in a matter in hand, has he any just cause to tell the public it is just so and so. Hence, whenever I read anything of the sort savoring of the ignorance just alluded to, I continue about my business unmoved.

This was the case when in December 1898 *Osprey*, I saw a wonderful criticism of one of my little pamphlets, describing my Chicago World's Fair collection of eggs. I just let the gent have his say and cool off. But in the very next issue of the same magazine, appeared an article by me, on "The Nesting of the Black and White Warbler," in which the publisher gave a nice setting page 71, and left little to console Mr. F. H.K. But holy gee! the correspondence the original review brought out. Just see these pages for reference, Dec. 1898, page 62. Feb. 1899, page 85. Mar. 1899, page 107. May 1899, page 139. Sept. 1899 Ed. page 6, same issue page 11. Oct. 1899, page 27.

On the last named page, Knowlton ate much of his own mud pie, and give way for Norris' excellent defence of collecting in series.

Now, I honestly believe that the worst of abuse which the oologist has stood for in the past, is passing, and the study of birds in the oological way will be looked upon with more favor in the coming years, and think these remarks of mine may be out of

place just at this time to bolster up those who are worthy, and who dislike to receive the slurs usually heaped upon the oologist.

J. Warren Jacobs.

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#### Oakfield, Wis.

I would like to know what has become of the several birds that were very common here 40 years ago, when I moved on my prairie farm in 1879. Dickcissel were singing from every clump of willow brush and nests were quite often found and in two or three years they disappeared and I haven't seen but one since.

For a number of years Horned Larks were very common arriving about the middle of February and feeding in the roads, and in the last twenty years I have seldom seen one.

In those early days hundreds of Snow Buntings and Lap Land Longspurs were here. Practically all have disappeared, and it was not on account of collectors or hunters and practically none were shot and not one nest in a hundred collected.

Delaos Hatch.

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#### Books Received

Guide to the Summer Birds of the Bear Mountain Park, sections of the Palisades Interstate Park, by P. M. Silloway. This little volume of 105 pages illustrated by 33 halftones and 1 map is issued in 1920 by the New York State College of Forestry. It has three general sub-divisions, a description of the country there, a suggestion for the study of birds there and a list of the birds observer, this latter divided into three sections.

The entire production shows the usual Silloway thoroughness, an intimate knowledge of the matter treated of. Few exceed O. P. as a field research man and almost none as a descriptive writer. Editor.

# North American BIRDS EGGS FOR EXCHANGE

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## An Unusual Opportunity

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I have on hand, to offer for exchange for specimens desired by me, three hundred and one different varieties of birds eggs. Of some species I have but one set, of others considerable series. Send me a list of what you have for exchange and if it contains anything I want I will send you my list in reply.

Some specimens that I have for exchange are very rare and hard to get, and others are of the common varieties.

This is an unusual opportunity to secure new specimens or to enlarge series in your collection.

R. M. BARNES,

LACON, ILL.

WANTED—Common sets of all kinds ornithological magazines, bird skins. Will pay reasonable prices. What have you? Will be in the Exchange market in spring. JOHNSON A. NEFF, P. O. Box 9, Marionville, Mo.

I HAVE over 100 kinds of Fresh Water mussels to sell or exchange for same or skins or eggs. DR. W. S. STRODE, Lewiston, Ill.

WANTED TO PURCHASE for cash, entire collection of North American Birds Eggs. None are too large or too small if they contain material I can use. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED—For Cash or Exchange: Oologists for Dec. 1902; June and July, 1912; April and May, 1918; Jan. and Feb. 1919. Also who can offer any of the following complete volumes: Oologist, 1903 to 1912 inclusive? J. WARREN JACOBS, Waynesburg, Pa.

WANTED—Sets or singles of Hawks, crows, bluejays, sandpipers, waxwings, grackles, blackbirds, warblers in quantities for cash. Also Duck Hawks. KARL A. PEMBER, Woodstock, Vt.

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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

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VOL. XXXVII. No. 9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEP. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 401

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# THE OOLOGIST

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTS SETS of 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-306-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYL, Maplewood, N. J.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—To Trade birds eggs in sets—almost any kind. Also will buy birds eggs in sets. Senr lists right away. ARTHUR BLOCHER, Box 404, Amboy, Illinois.

WANTED—Complete set of "Condor". I have a small collection of sea birds' eggs, excellent for duplicates, that I am offering for this set. THEODORE R. GREER, Sheridan, Ill.

DR. CLECKLEY'S HAND EGG Blow Pipe, suitable for all fresh eggs and for rinsing eggs after blowing. Sent prepaid with full instructions for \$1.25. Endorsed and used by many prominent Oologists. Dr. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, 457 Green St., Augusta, Ga.

WANTED FOR CASH—Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; American Ornithology, Vols. 5 and 6; The Bittern, complete file. I will also pay a good cash price for any of the following sets, if 1st class in every respect and with original data: A. O. U. No. 288, 328, 419, 424, with skins of both male and female and nest. B. S. GRIFFIN, 22 Currier Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWER, Willard, Mo.

I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco. Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

THE BAILEY MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY, Newport News, Va., desires to secure through exchange or purchase, small mammal skins, and a collection of bird skins and eggs. Submit lists and price. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

FOR DISPOSAL—A large series of sets with nests of Swainson's Warblers. Choice Cabinet Specimens. Make offer. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Enclose 2c stamp for reply. Dr. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, Augusta, Ga.

TECCOBS wants correspondents to exchange ornithological observations and experiences. Address Geoffrey Gill, Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. Western Correspondents address Theodore Greer, Sheridan, Illinois.

FOR BEST CASH OFFER—Cones Key Fifth Edition, 12 Vols. like new, A. C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

WANTED—Correspondence with parties desiring to exchange good specimens, ornithological publications, photographs, etc. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J.

FOR DISPOSAL—Four volumes of The Oologist, 1916-1919, inclusive, with October, 1918, supplement. Make offer. H. M. HOLLAND, Galesburg, Ill.

FOR SALE—Vol. VI, VII, VIII, Birds of North and Middle America, E. K. SCHLEICHER, Mathias Point, Va.

ALL WHO ARE WILLING to pay cash for mounted birds and bird skins write to me at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga.

FOR EXCHANGE—A. O. U. 77, 408, 413, 560a and 683a. Can use any common sets. JOHN B. HURLEY, Yakima, Wash.

WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE notes or correspond with any observers in the Ozark Mountains. P. ROBERTS, Conway, Mo.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 9

ALBION, N. Y., SEP. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 401

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1908, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## THE NEW EGG CATALOG

After a prolonged delay, due to the activities of the collecting season just past and to a lengthy discussion of points of vital import, the Committee of Twenty-five wish to announce through the columns of **The Oologist** in reply to numerous inquiries, that the reports of practically all of the committeemen are in the hands of the Committee on Final Adjustment.

Knowing, as all oologists do, of the ability and integrity of this committee, Messrs. Bowles, Willard and Harlow, the Committee of Twenty-five, feel that within a short time, the proof will be ready for the printer.

In addition to the price list, the catalog will contain a number of chapters on practical oology in its various phases written by men of wide experience in egg collecting and study.

The committee feel pride in stating that the catalog will be more than a mere price list, but will be more in the nature of a hand book that they hope will be of real value to every oologist in North America.

B. R. Bales, M.D., (Chairman) Circleville, Ohio.

## DREAMS!

The Editor of THE OOLOGIST, strange as it may seem to some of our hardheaded scientifics, is a firm believer in the philosophy of dreams. That they do at times disclose coming events is beyond question. Premonitions frequently come in the form of dreams. In the life of the Editor numerous startling and uncanny experiences are connected with dreams, and certain events in his life and in the lives of others near and dear to him have been controlled absolutely by dreams, and there is some of these in the most serious phases of life, entering even the border land between life and death.

But enough on the philosophising on the subject of dreams. Come with the Editor and experience a dream as startling as reality itself. In the course of which we find ourself in a little mountain town about a thousand miles from home. We are inducted into an old-fashioned stone house, with walls fully two feet thick, three stories and a basement high, covered with the heaviest kind of slate roof, and showing every evidence of having been built by the sturdy men of former generations, and apparently capable of withstanding the storms of generations to come.

We are introduced to a little old man, rather under-size, somewhat stooped; with piercing black eyes and a most kindly countenance. His son tells us that he is totally deaf, and has been during the last fifty-six years of his sixty-nine years life. This old gentleman is a good conversationalist and can carry on a lively conversation with the members of his family who use the hand language of the mutes with great rapidity. To the Editor this dream man hands a heavy black pencil and a writing tablet, and we hold a pleasant conversation

with him, though rather slow as our end of it was all written.

He tells us about his father for whom he seems to have the deepest respect and veneration, tells us that the house in which we are, is now occupied by the fifth generation of the family, shows us the old family Bible with the date mark of 1730; in which is the entry of the birth of his father at the place where we now are in our dream in 1790. Tells us that his father was formerly the maker of the old-fashioned silk stove pipe hat and also woolen ones; that the machine on which and with which he constructed this hand-made head gear is now in the Museum of his state.

Told us that his father was a great lover and student of birds and animals and Natural History generally, and that he from 1840 to about 1885 conducted a general tanning, taxidermy and naturalist curiosity shop in the town where this old house was, in a building attached to it. That his father was acquainted with and had dealings with the most prominent Oologists and Ornithologists of that day, and accumulated a very large collection of mounted birds, birds nests, and birds eggs. At this point our dream became very interesting and he asked us if we would like to see the collection of eggs and nests and said that the birds had been sold long ago. Just like yourself, gentle reader, we would like to see them! Thereupon we dreamed that we followed this kindly old gentleman up two flights of musty, dusty stairs, and we were suddenly introduced into a large room. If it is possible that persons open their eyes in dreams our eyes were opened very wide at that instant. There was a room about thirty-six feet by twenty-four feet with a very high ceiling and four very large windows on each side, in which were the old-



fashioned inside blinds. In that room were six glass topped cases each about ten feet long and four and a half feet wide, standing on small carpenter horse trusses, with the centers high so that the glass tops which hung from the middle sloped downward on each side. These cases were about twenty inches deep on the outside edges, and were covered with old newspapers, and the place was draped with cobwebs and covered with dust of former years, littered with piles of cigar boxes, dozens of old-fashioned paper collar boxes and relics of by-gone times.

Then in our dream this brightly active man commenced to pull the dusty papers off these glass cases, and then came the real surprise of the experience. Here is what we dreamed we saw:

THE FIRST CASE disclosed on one side nests and sets of the Raven, Great-horned, Long-eared, Short-eared, Bared and Burrowing Owls. The care with which the nests had been preserved was truly remarkable.

The other side of this case contained sets of eggs of the White Egret, Great White Heron, Esquimo and Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian and Marbled Godwit, Woodcock, Wilson snipe, Least, Solitary, and Bartramian Sandpipers, Black Turn-stone and three American Phalaropes and the rare Stilt Sandpiper besides other Waders.

CASE TWO contained Eggs of the Ostrich, Emu, Cassaway, numerous rare Gulls and all the American Jaegers; on one side, and eggs of the Greater and Lesser Snow Geese, a set of Hooded Merganser and another of the almost extinct Trumpeter Swan.

CASE THREE had a nest and set of eggs of the Golden Eagle, and of Harlan's Hawk, the Swallow-tailed Kite, besides nests and eggs of the Sharp

shinned, Coopers, Broad winged, Red-tailed and Red shouldered and other common Hawks.

Then we crossed the aisle and gladdened our eyes looking at CASE FOUR, by gazing at twenty Wild Pigeons (there were 46 of these all told in the collection) a set of Long-billed Curlew, another nest and set of eggs of the Swallow-tailed Kite, and a large number of sets of the Gallinaceous birds, Quails, Grouse, Prairie chicken, Sage Grouse, etc. As though this were not enough our dream host, the kindly old deaf man pulled out two drawers which were built in the bottom of this case. Among the treasures there disclosed were fourteen sets of the Sandhill Crane, 86 eggs of the Broad-winged Hawk, a box containing a set of eggs and the only nest that we know of, of the Wild Pigeon. (It is strange that with the millions of pigeons that formerly inhabited this country, and the hundreds of eggs that were preserved by collectors that nobody ever thought of saving a nest). We prized this nest more than any other Wild Pigeon egg that we have ever had. It was splendidly collected and beautifully preserved, and is without a doubt, the finest specimen of its kind in existence,—if only real and not a mere dream nest.

CASE FIVE we looked dreamily into. This receptacle contained many specimens brought down by the R. R. MacFarland Arctic expedition. Great Northern Shrike, Tree Sparrow and others. Many Warblers of the rare varieties with nests in situ, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Yellow Rumped Prairie and others; nests filled with rare Sparrows and Flycatchers, beautiful nests of the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher and many others, crowded this receptacle. Again our dream guide drew out the two



drawers in the bottom of this case. Could we believe our eyes or was it only a pleasant dream, 178 Sharp-shinned Hawks eggs in sets, 41 Bartramian Sandpiper, a dozen or more Marbled Godwit, but enough, the drawers are closed.

CASE SIX. This case like all the others, appeared to be crowded with specimens but contained no nests. The material as taken was arranged on the long-since dried up mountain moss which formed the base filling of all the cases. It was brown and beautiful; and sticking up therein were little circles of light greenish Cariboo moss, encircling each set and giving a most beautiful appearance to the whole arrangement. The specimens in this case—imaginary case of dream creation—were mostly those of the commonest smaller birds, yet one end was a veritable treasure chest. Here were a set of 5 Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, several sets of the different Arctic three-toed Woodpeckers, and many eggs of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker. The drawer under this case yielded one of the most beautiful sets of the Wild Turkey that we have ever looked upon.

Then with our guide we dreamed our way up another pair of dusty stairs into a hot, dirty, cluttered-up attic and here with a wave of his hand he turned our attention to many boxes, apparently covered with many years dust accumulation, which he said contained eggs. Of course even in our dream we sought to add something to our collection, and forthwith entered into negotiations with our host to acquire these specimens; and as all dreams except night mares are pleasant ones, of course we succeeded, and proceeded to pack up what we had secured, the entire lot. The dream guide brought down the dusty and musty eggs from the attic. We opened the

boxes and cases and packed feverishly, because one must pack rapidly if they are to pack 4000 eggs in one dream. Some of them are numbered according to the list of Prince Napoleon, published in 18..., others according to the list of Thomas M. Brewer, published in 18.... Some according to the Coues list of 18..., others according to lists of the Robert Ridgeway, and many of them yet with the numbers of 1886 A. O. U. list. Many of the record cards and datas appeared to be signed by people we have never known of. And many of them were accompanied by slips in the handwriting of some of the best known Oologists and Ornithologists who studied here between 1840 and 1880. Many of them were accompanied by the original Smithsonian data issued with specimens taken by the R. R. MacFarland, Anderson River Arctic expedition. And many of them were marked with the Smithsonian numerical accession number. Many of them had no data, and many of them carried the data written on the egg. Many were cracked and many were broken, many were so dirty and covered with dust that even a white egg was as brown as the street, and many were as beautifully and carefully prepared as any of the present day specimens.

As we rolled and packed and packed and rolled with cotton and dreams and dust and hurry; we lift the lid of a cigar box half full of what appears to be grayish brown colored eggs. Picking one of them up and blowing the dust off of it; Lo and Behold an oval white, glossy egg, more elongated and not as large as the tame pigeon, bearing in faded lavender ink the mystic number of "448." Look this number up in the old list and see what we dreamed we found. A half a cigar box full of eggs of the extinct *Ectopistes Migratorius*!



Long Eared Owl, Three Weeks Old.—Photo by T. H. Jackson

Delving through this lot of dirty specimens brought down from the attic, mixed with years of dirt, dust and cobwebs, and with dozens of cracked, broken and whole specimens of the eggs of our commonest birds, Robin, Woodthrush, Brownthrasher, Catbird, etc., our eye was suddenly arrested, if you can arrest your eyes in a dream, by a grayish looking specimen about the size of a Kingfisher's egg, but with a different shell texture, and rather sharper pointed on one end. Of course we had during all this imaginary dream kept in mind this very possibility. Carefully brushing the dust and dirt away from off the egg, we turned the cleaner downward side up and there it was! Between the two holes with which the egg had been blown on that side, in indelible black ink "Carolina Paroquet."

The discovery was so startling that we promptly awoke only to find that the whole dream was true! That we were actually the owner of this collection of eggs made by Richard B. Christ, the well known Naturalist of Nazareth, Pa. The co-laborer with Audubon, Brewer, and many other of the most noted Ornithologists of those days.

We trust that his son, the kindly dream guide, Frank B. Christ, will never regret turning this collection over to us, for they will never be peddled out for profit, and will ultimately find lodgment (that is those that we can use, about 800 specimens in addition to our present collection) in the third largest natural History museum in America. And we really believe that we have performed a real service in rescuing this splendid lot of rare specimens from oblivion, decay and destruction and placing them where they will be of scientific value to the coming generations.

We hope some such good luck dream

will be the portion of each of our readers.

R. M. BARNES.

### THE SKY LARK

The Sky Lark is one of the common songbirds of southern Europe, and is not known in America. Its manner of song has been the theme of poets as well as a matter of comment by Ornithologists and nature lovers. Its song is its greatest attraction as it is a dull colored bird not easily seen while running over the ground, and in nowise more conspicuous than any other small bird while flying. With the possible exception of the Nightingale it is the most renowned of songbirds, and in my estimation it deserves to rank as first of the songsters of Europe.

In 1851 the Skylark was introduced into America in the vicinity of Cincinnati, and later on Long Island, but they did not thrive and soon became extinct. Our Horned Lark in its many forms is its only American relative.

It was my good fortune to become acquainted with this bird while with the American Expeditionary forces in France and the Rhineland during the winter and spring of 1919. It was in the Department of Haute-Marne, near the little village of Rouvres sur-Aube, during the month of January that I began to notice the small flocks of larks wheeling in the air after the manner of our Horned Larks. The routine of military life gave me but little time for bird-study, but an enthusiastic observer will always be on the alert for birds, though he is otherwise busily engaged. Therefore these notes and observations were made at random and are intended mainly to depict the "Flight-song" habit of the Skylark.

It was early in February that I began to notice the vernal flight-song of



the Skylark. Day after day the song increased, and by the 1st of March the air seemed filled with the songs of many individuals. Rain or shine the song continued from dawn until dark with little intermission. On Sunday afternoon, March 9th, 1919, I went to the fields above the village to observe the larks. At all times in the villages the birds could be heard as they soared high in the air, but on this afternoon each bird seemed to be trying to out-sing his fellow songster. The blue sky filled with fleecy clouds was glorious; indeed it was a most beautiful day, in fact, a rare treat to the doughboy accustomed to the drizzling rain. As I ascended the hill several larks could be seen soaring over the valley, and the songs of many more could be heard. On reaching the fields I stationed myself behind some bushes near a place where several larks were seen to take wing. Here I had an excellent opportunity to observe them. There were about half a dozen individuals on perhaps half an acre of ground. Usually from one to three of these were in the air. I noticed that they usually began singing a few seconds before they took wing and ceased while many yards in the air. However, this rule was not strictly adhered to by all individuals. As the bird arose in full song it usually went straight up for many yards, and then seemed to waft with the wind, higher and higher until at last it hovers on fluttering wings, never ceasing to sing for an instant. It thus remains, as it were, suspended in the air for perhaps half a minute before it slowly flutters to the earth. Though this hovering in the air is usually performed at the climax of its flight, occasionally a bird would be seen to ascend, or descend, a short distance and repeat the performance. Several were noticed while descending

that suddenly ceased singing while many yards in the air, and at once dropped to the ground not prolonging their flight as while singing. One bird that I watched particularly returned to almost the exact spot from which it took wing.

So high does the Skylark mount while singing that it is often impossible to see it though its clear, sweet song cannot fail to attract attention. To a person unacquainted with the habits of birds, it would seem that the same lark is on the wing from morning until night, as one or several birds are always in full song in the air. On timing several birds I found that the length of time individuals remained in the air varied considerably. Two that did not go out of sight remained in the air one minute and forty seconds, and two minute and ten seconds respectively. The bird that remained in the air for the longest period recorded was high in the air when first seen and it was four minutes before it reached the earth. Usually a bird remained in the air for a trifle over two minutes during which time it may have been lost to sight from twenty to thirty seconds. Sometimes a bird would rise a few yards in the air and drop back to earth as if undecided whether or not to take an aerial journey. The song of the Skylark is sometimes delivered on the ground.

To me the Skylark's song is indescribable. It is entirely different from any bird with which I am acquainted. It is said to somewhat resemble the song of the Bobolink, and though I could perceive a similarity in some of its notes the Skylark's song is not delivered in the mad, reckless manner of "Bobolink". Its notes are more distinctly given yet they closely follow one another. Some of its notes somewhat resemble notes of the song (if it can be so called) of the Prairie





W. H. Pahrman Holding Two Eggs of Great Horned Owl.  
—Photo by J. S. Schlitter



Nest and Eggs of the Blue Grosbeak  
—Photo by R. Graham

horned Lark. There was something in its song that suggested the Lark Sparrow. The song is always sweet and pleasing, and several birds singing in unison is a concert worth listening to.

At many points in France and Germany I met the Skylark, and though many incidents connected with my travels while with the A. E. F. may be forgotten, the song of the Skylark will always live in my memory as one of the pleasant features of soldiering days abroad.

Ben. J. Blincoe.

### THE WORK OF THE OOLOGIST, ELEVATING AND COM- MENDABLE

By Warren Jacobs

The work of the Oologist is elevating and commendable, although he may specialize largely in amassing a collection of birds' eggs. Sometimes, however, a mere collector of curio poses as an oologist, but not to the extent as formerly, when it was a common thing for scores of small boys of a community to follow nest robbing and forming egg collections.

There was a time when bird studies of the oologist were limited to making a collection of eggs; but as the time progressed, there developed a desire to delve into the science to a greater depth and with greater zeal and keener interest in all phases of bird study.

Even the youth of today, in making his start as a bird student, along inclinations to collect eggs, begins with a deeper interest in birds than did many of the greater ornithologists who began as an egg collector.

The science of oology is a branch of ornithology, and indeed, to a certain degree, both are kindred branches which must depend, one upon the other, if the spirit of true scientific study and research is to be attained.

I have talked with some very good bird students whom we may class as ornithologists, even some who have attained professional standing, possessing a very thorough knowledge of birds and birds' habits, but who exhibited considerable ignorance of eggs, apparently preferring to bridge over this epoch in the bird's life history to what appeared to them, the more fascinating study of juvenile and adult life of the bird, its color, food and general habits. These branches do not escape the true oologist, for his own real success in finding nests of birds, depends largely upon a knowledge of these very subjects, as well as others affecting bird study. Most well known naturalists began bird study by a desire to form an egg collection.

Athletic sports becoming so popular, as much as any other thing, have been responsible for a dropping off in the craze among small boys to collect birds' eggs. All we, who have the welfare of the birds at heart, and wish to study them properly, even by robbing them, should say: "Go to it, small boy, with your ball playing and all other forms of athletic sports; but leave the field of oology to us, for its proper care and exploitation."

Now there are other things, besides athletic sports, responsible for this better condition. Education, among both young and old, more than laws, on the subject of protection instead of harming the birds, enters into the cause of better conditions, and will be future cause for a better understanding of the oologist and his work.

Because of the work of irresponsible boys, not entirely wiped out, reproach is often brought upon the more worthy youthful oologist who must start in somewhere as a beginner, as did Audubon, Wilson, Bendire and many other great naturalists, ornithologists

and oologists, both living and dead.

As to critics of the oological student, however, the more ignorant he is of the subject in hand, the more narrow his logic, and the more sweeping his condemnation of the oological field of science.

Just whether an ornithologist,—and this includes the taxidermist, who takes more pride in setting up a fine specimen than in the study of the bird in life,—needs a hundred skins of any one species of bird, I cannot be the judge. Possibly he does need them for the work he has in hand. Let us hope so anyway. The ornithologist, studying the bird's dead body or skin, needs material, but great in mass, as it may seem, represents only a very small proportion of bird destruction. There are many great agencies of bird destruction, but scientific study and research cannot truly shoulder a very heavy load of the responsibility. But still, in the *LIFE* of the bird does all reproduction depend; and yet this phrase can be reversed to read: upon *REPRODUCTION*, does all bird life depend!

The foregoing remarks are not intended for a criticism of the skin collector, but rather a defence of his real scientific work. I have enlarged upon it because it is also condemned by the unlearned in certain laws of Nature effecting bird life, and the point desired to bring out will be treated further along, notwithstanding the fact that some condemnation of the oologist originates with some specializing ornithologists who feel it an absolute necessity to possess hundreds of birds' skins of a single species.

Apparently there can be no denial of the fact that the spirit to specialize along some line, is as potent among professional ornithologists, as among those who follow ornithological studies in a more humble way. Often

have I been impressed with an exhibition of these features in the written or spoken word of some ornithologist of rank. On the other hand, I find, very generally, that the average oologist has made a wide study of the bird itself, and not only able to describe the cabinet series of eggs, but if he is active in the field making his collection, he is acquiring a very thorough knowledge of the bird's life history in all its phases, discovering some scientific truths of import appertaining to either the eggs, or the birds themselves.

I do not wish, however, to pass over this subject without calling attention to the fact that, too often, the oologist seems satisfied with mere dates and numbers in describing a series of eggs. But still this may be the purpose of the description, and therefore the purpose served, although much could have been said of other interesting features.

The collection of a set of eggs constitutes a robbery, to some persons a very cruel and unpardonable act; but to the observing and deep thinking oologist, a fact of the most temporary loss; for he has learned that birds, almost without exception, set about immediately to renewed efforts of nidification when they are disturbed by robbery, or otherwise. He also knows, often to his sorrow, that when the bird's life is taken, there ceases to be either a chance for future robbery, or for the bird's reproduction for all time to come. Hence the taking of a bird's life also constitutes a robbery, and one with an irreparable loss far greater than that of taking a nest of eggs.

So it would seem wise for those critics ever ready to condemn an oologist for his methods of bird study, to at least, give a more equitable distribution of criticism among the various causes detrimental to bird life. Indeed he could ignore the work of the



scientific oologist, altogether, or treat it as a minimized factor in bird destruction, compared with the various other causes responsible for the death of birds.

IN THE LIFE OF THE BIRD, DOES ALL REPRODUCTION DEPEND! Robbery of a nest of eggs may be committed, but without destroying the means of reproduction, or checking reproduction itself. In the absolute death of the bird, all is over for all time to come! This is a simple statement which will permit of no argument. It is a law of Nature, absolute in its function and unalterably stolid and unrelenting in its workings today as when it was first chronicled for man's benefit, nearly 3500 years ago. Note the following:

Deuteronomy, XXII Chapter, Sixth and seventh verses:

6. If a bird's nest chance to be in the way in any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones, or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young (or eggs).
7. "But thou shalt in anywise let the dam go, and take the young (or eggs) to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou may prolong thy days."

How swift and certain, many times, has this law of Nature been brought face to face with the human race! Just two instances of most recent times may be cited here for calling attention to the inevitable verdict of Nature for man's violation of her laws; and the scriptural passage above quoted is a justifiable warning of that law. The mere mention of the Great Auk and Passenger Pigeon will bring my point home to every bird student; and the following statements can find no solace in the breasts of those who condemn the

oologist as a very great factor in bird destruction:

NOT OOLOGIST, COLLECTING EGGS, but bird killers was it that wrought destruction and demoralization to the ranks of the Great Auk, driving them to extermination. NOT OOLOGISTS, COLLECTING EGGS, but bird killers, with a wantonness without a parallel, brought disaster and total annihilation to the myriads of wild Passenger Pigeons of North America.

True it is, no doubt, that bird killers did not sweep away the last remnants of the Great Auk, and just as true, no doubt, the thinned ranks of the wild pigeons were not persistently shattered by similar destructive agencies, after it became unprofitable to follow the work of destruction. But decade after decade of unrelenting persecution to the point of loss of instincts undoubtedly demoralized the of reproduction; always living in constant fear and wandering hither and yon in search of a peaceful haven. More especially, in the case of the Passenger Pigeon, does this seem true. Even the last immense flights of these birds, we are told, showed their inability to nest, or their indifference to the instinct of reproduction, itself; taking flight and vacating the territory whenever their safety was menaced, regardless of the passing of the breeding season. It was the same with small flights, or flocks, reported in most recent years, when it would seem that the straggling remnants could settle and breed without notice or molestation, they seemed to be wandering aimlessly about, with no place to settle for any definite period, but devoid of any instinct except to snatch a few morsels of food and hurry on, aimlessly, to a destination unknown, even to themselves.



Egg collecting, as persistently carried out as bird killing in these, or any other similar cases, would eventually have exterminated the birds; for if the rookeries had been robbed persistently, and without a sparing hand, to be sure extermination would have been the inevitable result. But such thing would be an absolute impossibility in the time, or a multiple of the time in which was witnessed the complete annihilation of the species.

Even among professional market egggers, who gather hundreds of thousands of seabirds' eggs annually, there is respect for the law of reproduction, and they cease their robberies in time for the birds to reproduce young each year. All the oologists throughout the world, in a hundred years, never collected as many seabirds' eggs as the professional market egggers have gathered in a single season, and still there are millions of seabirds. But say, dear reader, if these birds were being killed instead of being robbed, about how long do you think the breeding supply could hold out?

If the barn-yard fowls were being killed as persistently as they are being robbed, about how long, do you imagine, it would require to exterminate this important factor in the world economics? If the law of Nature, pointed out in the verses of 22 Chapter of Deuteronomy (and the passage is simply a citation of the law of reproduction), were not heeded and thoroughly carried out by the human race, in the case of poultry, annihilation of one of the greatest sources of food supply for the peoples of the world would follow.

The critic who takes upon himself to "bellow" at the oologist, should first go afield, experiment, and learn of Nature and her laws!

### Personal

The Oologist Editor had the pleasure of recently entertaining at our home Capt. Frank B. Eastman, of whom our readers know much. It was he who added to our collection our first set of Great Gray Owls eggs, beside quite a number of other rarities. We had a great time visiting over our collection and we enjoyed much listening to first hand recitations of experiences within the Arctic Circle. It was a far call from Eagle, Alaska, to Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill., where the Captain is now located. Come again.

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Geo. E. Carson of Toronto, Canada, one of the foremost of Canada's wild-fowl breeders and a present swimming director of Toronto's Y. M. C. A. dropped off between trains to look over our assemblage of wild geese. Mr. Carson has had much experience with this class of birds and we absorbed a number of valuable ideas as the result of his call which we hope will be repeated.

Raymond Graham spent some time during the month of June at Cristi, Texas, among the Water Birds and big fish. He says, "I am catching some big ones." Birds or Fish?

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### CORRECTION

Through a typographical omission in "Collecting Local Bird Names," OOLOGIST XXXVII, page 95, the Herons local name appeared as "Poke," where "Shyte-Poke" was intended. Through this error, the interest connected with this name was lost, and for the benefit of the readers this note is added.

Fred J. Pierce.

# North American BIRDS EGGS FOR EXCHANGE

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## An Unusual Opportunity

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I have on hand, to offer for exchange for specimens desired by me, two hundred and eighty different varieties of birds eggs. Of some species I have but one set, of others considerable series. Send me a list of what you have for exchange and if it contains anything I want I will send you my list in reply.

Some specimens that I have for exchange are very rare and hard to get, and others are of the common varieties.

This is an unusual opportunity to secure new specimens or to enlarge series in your collection.

R. M. BARNES,

LACON, ILL.

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1-3-4-6-7; Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3; II, 1;  
III, 1-2-3; IV, 1-2; VII, 1; IX, 5 and in-  
dex; X, 4-5-6 and index; XIII, 4. Orni-  
thologist & Oologist, Vol. VI complete;  
VII, complete; XI, 2-3-4-5-6; XII, 10.

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(Utica), Oologist (Albion), Ornitholo-  
gist and Oologist, Osprey, Warbler,  
Wilson Bulletin, and Nature Ornitholo-  
gical magazines. BENJ. ADAMS,  
Wethersfield, Conn.

WANTED—A good pair, each of  
Black and Yellow Rails for which I  
will give good exchange. O. C. HAST-  
INGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport,  
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WANTED—A Cedar Waxwing's nest  
in good condition. Will pay cash for  
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ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in  
pairs of any of the North American  
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price for those that I need. R. M.  
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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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VOL. XXXVII. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 1, 1920. WHOLE No. 402

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## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise.  
R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTS SETS OF 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-305-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYL, Maplewood, N. J.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—To Trade birds eggs in sets—almost any kind. Also will buy birds eggs in sets. Senr lists right away. ARTHUR BLOCHER, Box 404, Amboy, Illinois.

WANTED—Complete set of "Condor". I have a small collection of sea birds' eggs, excellent for duplicates, that I am offering for this set. THEODORE R. GREEK, Sheridan, Ill.

DR. CLECKLEY'S HAND EGG Blow Pipe, suitable for all fresh eggs and for rinsing eggs after blowing. Sent prepaid with full instructions for \$1.25. Endorsed and used by many prominent Oologists. DR. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, 457 Green St., Augusta, Ga.

WANTED FOR CASH—Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; American Ornithology, Vols. 5 and 6; The Bittern, complete file. I will also pay a good cash price for any of the following sets, if 1st class in every respect and with original data: A. O. U. No. 288, 328, 419, 427, with skins of both male and female and nest. B. S. GRIFFIN, 22 Currier Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWER, Willard, Mo.

I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco, Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

THE BAILEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Newport News, Va., desires to secure through exchange or purchase, small mammal skins, and a collection of bird skins and eggs. Submit lists and price. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

FOR DISPOSAL—A large series of sets with nests of Swainson's Warblers. Choice Cabinet Specimens. Make offer. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Enclose 2c stamp for reply. DR. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, Augusta, Ga.

TECCOBS wants correspondents to exchange ornithological observations and experiences. Address Geoffrey Gill, Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. Western Correspondents address Theodore Greer, Sheridan, Illinois.

FOR BEST CASH OFFER—Cones Key Fifth Edition, 12 Vols. like new, A. C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

WANTED—Correspondence with parties desiring to exchange good specimens, ornithological publications, photographs, etc. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J.

FOR DISPOSAL—Four volumes of The Oologist, 1916-1919, inclusive, with October, 1918, supplement. Make offer. H. M. HOLLAND, Galesburg, Ill.

FOR SALE—Vol. VI, VII, VIII, Birds of North and Middle America, E. K. SCHLEICHER, Mathias Point, Va.

ALL WHO ARE WILLING to pay cash for mounted birds and bird skins write to me at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga.

FOR EXCHANGE—A. O. U. 77, 498, 413, 560a and 683a. Can use any common sets. JOHN B. HURLEY, Yakima, Wash.

WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE notes or correspond with any observers in the Ozark Mountains. P. ROBERTS, Conway, Mo.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 10

ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 402

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oölogist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December-issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## FIRE!

The Bashaw Star of Bashaw, Alberta, Canada, under date of September 2d, contains this unfortunate news item:

Fire, supposed to have been caused from a defective stove pipe, completely destroyed the home of George L. Cook, who lives about six miles east of town. The fire started about seven o'clock in the morning while the family were out doing the chores and milking and by the time they arrived on the scene the entire building was a mass of flames, the building and contents being a total loss.

Among the contents was a collection of birds' eggs valued at between \$800 and \$900 and representing practically every known species of bird known to Alberta. This collection had been gathered over a period of fifteen years and was considered one of the finest in the province.

We extend to our brother our sympathy at his loss. Any one of us would hate to lose the accumulation of years. Why not each of us send Mr. Cook one set to assist in replacing as near as may be his loss. It would be a neat way to show there is a bond of sympathy between real Oölogists.

R. M. BARNES.

### Increase of Herring Gulls and Common Terns in Northern Lake Huron

Four years ago, in 1916, somewhere in the vicinity of seventy-five or one hundred pairs of Herring Gulls were found breeding on a small isolated island off the south shore of the upper peninsula of Michigan. A return on June 17th of the present year (1920) gave evidence of the fact that this number had increased to approximately one hundred and fifty pairs or thereabouts. Only a limited time was available for a reconnaissance of the situation but even that brief survey was sufficient to reveal the occupancy of over one hundred nests. The contents of these being distributed as follows:

One egg.....Twenty nests  
Two eggs.....Forty-two nests  
Three eggs....Thirty-seven nests  
Two and young and one egg....  
.....Three nests

In addition to the occupied nests there were between twenty and thirty nests of this year's building. The majority of the nests were found on or close to the point at the extreme south end of the island, but the remaining suitable stretches were by no means neglected. All of the nests were on the ground and within forty or fifty feet of the water's edge. No young birds feathered or out of the nest were to be found. The only young seen were those which had but recently hatched and were still covered with their natal down.

The tiny island on which one pair of Common Terns bred in 1916 afforded nesting places for twenty-five pairs this year, and a practically adjoining reef held four additional pairs, making a total of twenty-nine pairs of breeding birds. The island on which the main colony was established was hardly larger than thirty by forty feet while no point on it was at a greater

elevation than four feet above the water line. However, it was given fair protection by the proximity of the heavily wooded shores which bounded the bay in which it was situated. The twenty-nine nests were distributed as follows:

One egg.....One nest  
Two eggs.....Nine nests  
Three eggs.....Eighteen nests  
Four eggs.....One nest

The set of four was composed of three eggs of normal size and one runt. In addition to the above mentioned nests one egg was discovered in a crevice between two rocks which showed absolutely no evidence of ownership and it was, therefore, not credited in the list of twenty-nine occupied nests.

It was very gratifying to note this large increase in the case of both gulls and terns, especially in lieu of the fact that the neighboring shores are becoming more popular yearly as summer resorts and with a greatly augmented tourist body disturbances of birds on their breeding grounds would naturally be expected to increase and thus tend to continually lessen the number of birds resorting to this locality to breed. That such is not the case reflects as a compliment an both summer and permanent residents.

Albert D. McGrew.

September 30, 1920.

### A New Use For Camouflage

By Geoffrey Gill

You all know that not one single thing won the great world war, but a great number of things. One of these was camouflage. Did you ever stop to think what a great life-saver this art of 'Making things appear as what they ain't,' is, and of the great number of lives and untold suffering this art has saved. Many of our sons, brothers, husbands, our boys, that have return-

ed to our firesides again, might not be with us today without its aid. Think of those giant transports that carried our army over there, ever plunging through the angry seas. Without camouflage their dangers would have been increased a hundred-fold.

Camouflage is not a new idea. In fact it is a very old one and bird students, ornithologists if you wish, have known it for so long that they regard it as old as the often mentioned hills. We call it protective coloration with the birds though, but still it is the same thing. Birds and beasts have always used it and all through nature it appears. It is more noticeable in some than in others. Take the whip-poorwill for example. Here it is almost perfect, as you know how hard it is to distinguish this bird from a background of dead leaves in which it usually hides its nest. Its feathers seem to be colored exactly right to enable it to blend into its surroundings. There are many other examples and of course, quite a number of exceptions. I think one of the best exceptions is the crow for his uniform of black, while not a striking color, easily distinguishes him when flying or in winter against the snow.

Now that peace has come, or is in the act of coming, camouflage will drop somewhat into the discard, but there are a great number of peace time uses for it. All bird lovers ought to be especially interested in the camouflaging of bird houses and feeding devices. This goes, the idea of painting the houses and feeding stations a dull color such as grey or brown, one better. It gives a person a chance to show what a really good painter he is. Branches and leaves can be made to appear on the devices and they can be hidden in a great many more ways than they have been hidden before. Perhaps it is one of

the houses which are being made with the bark intact. Then a little more bark can be added to make it appear as though it was naturally growing from the tree.

There are a great many ways of using camouflage in connection with bird houses. More than I can write about in such a brief space, but each different proposition would need its own solving and I think that half of the fun of doing a thing is figuring it out oneself. As for the cost of material it wouldn't cost anything as undoubtedly there are some little dabs of paint left over from this job and a little from that job, and I am sure that if you will look in the cellar or wherever you keep such paints, you will find enough assortment of dabs to rival a paint shop. Now get busy on the houses you are taking down for the winter and when you clean them out try your hand at 'making them appear as what they ain't.' Camouflage carry on.

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#### Phalarope and Montana Red-wing

My North Dakota article in the August issue of this good little magazine having proven of interest, I am prompted to add somewhat to what has gone before. I have long been especially interested in the Phalarope. The curious sex-inversion, with its decidedly amusing phenomena, always impresses one to a high degree. I have found the sitting males highly nervous and excitable; flushing from their eggs as far as thirty feet from the invader. Indeed, no less than twice the past season I have been compelled to put up a flag, at the first flushing; and then return, sometimes as much as twice to flush the bird again. And I know of no bird-parent that makes so great a fuss; even when the sets of eggs are incomplete.

One's natural expectation of find-





View Looking South Across Lake. Editors Home Place.

—Photo by Lizzie Lynch.



Canada Gander Defending Nest on Editor's Home Place.

—Photo by Lizzie Lynch.

ing phalarope nests amid the longer grasses is certain to meet with disappointment. Tiny bogs, with scanty growth, are much favored; and, still more, the areas whereon naught is growing but a tiny, five-inch rush. Herein, the nests are placed. They are usually real nests, full half inch in thickness. They are of grassy and other fine materials, and the entire fabric is fairly well sunken into the soft meadow soil. Seldom is the site where water stands.

The Montana Red-wing is quite as interesting as his more plebeian congener of the southern and mid-northern marshes. His voice is of a rather different quality, and especially in the alarm notes uttered when one nears the nest. In no wise are these Red-wings so abundant as the common Red-wing is with us. During ten days of search for nests of the Yellow Rail I found, probably about fifteen nests of Montana Red-wings only.

These, in location and make-up, were decidedly uniform. They were, as I found them, almost invariably ob-conical; were always fairly sessile, amid rather short, fine meadow grass; and were made, of course, of marsh-materials, laid in wet. Few nests were raised above the ground level. I found a few that were hardly swathed to any appreciable degree to the surrounding grasses. The small series of eggs taken involved some exceedingly beautiful variances. One set contained eggs that were fairly speckled with a few hair lines and most delicate stippings while one set of very small and narrow eggs are hardly marked anywhere, save at the apex. (One egg of this exquisite set has just a tiny, sprawly blotch of black at the very crown. One egg of a set of five bears much of the faint, diffused tint of purplish grey so characteristic of the eggs of the Great-tailed Grackle, while

the magnificent markings are of the most delicate fairly wine-colored sepia-umber. A single (aborted) egg found lying on the sand at a lake margin fringed by rushes was totally unlike any red-wing egg I have ever seen. It was of a pale blue and was obscurely marked with clouded umber spots, all coalescing at the apex. The egg, moreover, was equal ended. One ventures here a suggestion in regard to series collecting. In cases where but a single egg of a set shows any wide variation it does seem a pity to break up the laying. Why not then take just the one unusual egg and depend on later findings for the gradual assembling of a fairly representative series?

P. B. Peabody,  
Blue Rapids, Kansas.

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#### Migration Notes

The fall of 1919, in the Ozark mountains, about the section of Marionville, Mo., began early and was very irregularly drawn out over a much longer space than usual. The first thing to be noted is that on account of the drouth, the summer residents had become transient. There was no surety of their whereabouts. During the last few days of August we had a change of weather which was sufficient to turn the attention of wild life towards fall.

During the last few days of August and the first few days of September the birds began to assemble and re-appear in greater numbers than I had seen for months. Then during the whole of September there was a steady flight, slow to be sure, but they were moving. This flight consisted of Robins, Grackles, Blackbirds, Jays, small Sparrows, Bluebirds, Cowbirds, Flickers, Woodpeckers, Kingbirds, Blue Gray Gnatcatchers and other

autumn transients appeared and passed on southward.

On the last few days of September the Blackbirds were in full flocks here and the hardy Phoebe were leaving their haunts and appearing in places they were seldom seen in. Just at this time we had some heavy rains. Ily was restless, the Purple Martin departed Sept. 10. I want to make a comment on that Martin. I was in a field at work on September 10th, when one lone Martin passed me, flying swiftly northwest. He was the last to be seen.

Soon after October 1st the Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied Woodpeckers came in abundance with the occasional Sapsucker and all the summer residents were the Swifts, Hummingbirds and an occasional flock of Myrtle Warblers. From October 1st to 5th the weather was warm and stagglers of many species were seen high in the air, and all with one idea in view, "Southward Bound."

On October 5th all of a sudden the weather changed, became stormy and threatening and a few stragglers redoubled their energy. I saw several Catbirds and Thrashers passing over but none desired to visit. This cool, threatening state of affairs lasted until about the 20th when it changed to storm. This sent all the Cowbirds, Waxwings and Swifts out in a hurry and on the 20th were seen the first wild fowls. Two flocks of rather small Geese were seen. Robins and Meadow Larks became became after a long vacation on the part of the later.

From October 21st to November 1st the weather grew rapidly worse. The mammoth crow roost was again inhabited. Wild fowl of all sort were seen and especially a family of Bitterns whom I heard fighting a high wind late one night. I could not tell whether they were in trees or in the

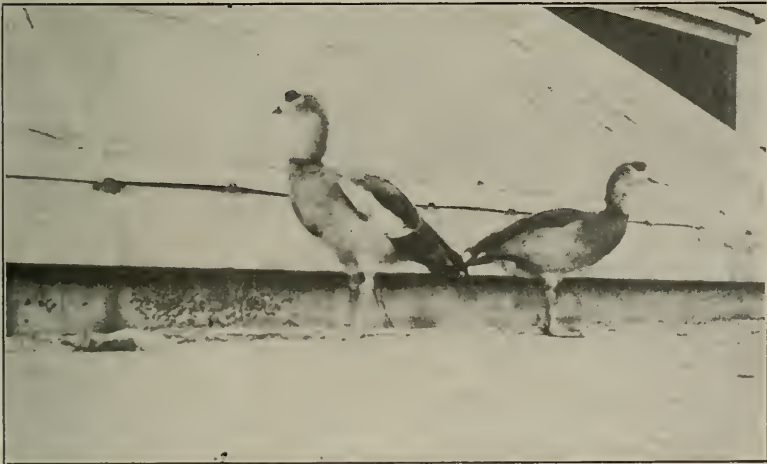
air. But if in the air, I knew they were not very sure of their perch for the trees were bent almost double. On Sunday morning, October 26th, I saw a flock of ten Water Fowls which I took to be Caspian Terns. I had no chance to kill one, so must only take my best guess with the field glass. During this eight day period there was an exceptional rainfall, greater than for many years and it was a paradise to Ducks and Geese. Whole fields were flooded, wheat stacks floated and the creeks were wild. Had no chance to shoot so my identification of the wild fowl will be rather a guess, but I know that there were three kinds of Geese, Mallards, Pintails, Wood Ducks and likely others, although I know of no others being bagged in this locality.

On October 27th I took a trip to a notable little place, a deserted mill, presumably duck hunting; but it grew cold and the ducks were high so I took a partial list during my trip and it showed that the migration was almost over. I identified the following: Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Lesser Goose, Mallard, Teal, Dipdivers, Snipe, Pileated Woodpeckers, Swamp Sparrows, Winter Wren and hundreds of Myrtle Warblers. I saw two flocks of sea fowl, both gulls but of different species. I presume one was the Herring an one of the Ring billed Gull. A flock of six white Pelican were seen about ten miles south and was found by investigation to be wandering about over the countryside apparently lost.

One unusually large flock of Turkey Vultures came along on the 27th and remained over a day or two, then went on. I saw a fine Marsh Hawk October 28th and on the 29th I killed a young male Baldpate. It was a new one to me as here one must kill most wild fowl before identification. Never too many that I can not find a new one.



Indian Bar-headed American Lesser Snow and European Pink-footed Geese on Editor's Home Place.—Photo by Lizzie Lynch



African Nile Geese on Editors Home Place.—Photo by Lizzie Lynch.



Wild fowl strayed through for several days until finally the weather cleared up about November 10th.

For the central ten days of November the weather was fine and summer birds came out from hiding but about November 22nd storms came again. Scattering ducks started south again and on November 29th I saw my first flock of Juncos, which always mean winter to me.

And on December 2nd, after a snow storm, the weather is cold but clear with the Meadowlarks making the fields ring.

Johnson Neff.  
Marionville, Mo.

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### The Poor Fox Sparrow

We are receipt of "A Revision of the Avian Genus *Passerella*, with special reference to the Distribution and Migration of Races in California. University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 21, pp. 75-224, by H. S. Swarth." This is an extensive paper which shows very great research and expenditure of time, but we cannot endorse all the conclusions that seem to be arrived at. We are sorry for the poor Fox Sparrow which is here split into sixteen more or less "Millimeter Races." In fact we fear it may ultimately meet the unhappy fate in this respect that has already overtaken the Song Sparrow and Horned Lark, Red Winged Blackbird, etc. To show the depth of the mire in which our big Bird Doctors are floundering in their efforts to give every country in the United States a separate sub-species; this author says pp. 81 "In these birds variation is so extensive and of such a nature that not only might different people arrive at different conclusions after study of the same material, but the same person might handle certain skins at dif-

ferent times and label them differently each time."

In the name of common sense is there any difference then in the birds, when different scientists could not detect it, nor can the difference be very great when the same investigator would refer the skin to a different sub-species every time he examined it. Is it not about time to call a halt on this sort of foolishness and get to "Normality?"

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### Rare

We have recently added to our collection a set of Trumpeter Swan and four sets of Whooping Crane. Eggs of these birds that are really authentic are certainly hard to get at this time.

Editor.

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### Concerning the Ornithology of the Long Expedition of 1820

Geo. E. Osterhout

During the summer of 1820—a hundred years ago—Major Stephen H. Long conducted the notable expedition which bears his name, to the Rocky Mountains. During the summer of 1819 the expedition came by steamboat from the vicinity of Pittsburg to the mouth of the Platte river, near Council Bluffs, and wintered there. Major Long was not at the encampment during the winter, but joined the party on the 28th day of May, and on June 6th, 1820, began the then long journey up the Platte. Dr. Edwin P. James, then a young man of 23 years, was botanist, also geologist and surgeon; he also became the historian of the expedition and it is from his "Account" that these notes of the Ornithology of the expedition are taken. The "Account" was published in 1825.

Thomas Say was the Zoologist, and to him fell the duty to "examine and describe any objects in zoology and its several branches, that may come

under our observation. A classification of all land and water animals, insects, etc., and a particular description of the animal remains found in a concrete state will be required of him." It was also expected of him to make a study of the customs and traditions of the Indian tribes, as well as a study of their comparative anatomy, and diseases and remedies. Mr. Say was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Academy of Science, was born in Philadelphia on the 27th day of July, 1787, was a relative of the Bartrams, who had the Botanic Garden at Kingsessing on the Schuylkill, near Philadelphia. That he was an able and accomplished naturalist is evident from his work, and he has been called the father of modern American Zoology. He was the author of a work on entomology and Dr. Elliott Coues in his "Historical Preface" to the "Key to North American Birds," says that he was an entomologist rather than an Ornithologist. As Zoologist of the Long expedition he became the describer of a number of mammals, reptiles and invertebrates, as well as of a number of birds.

The camp at which the expedition wintered was named "Engineer Cantonment." It was five miles below Council Bluffs, on the west bank of the Missouri. The expedition anchored there on the 19th day of September and remained till the 6th day of June 1820. The scientific workers thus had time to observe and collect the animal life of the region and to note both the fall and spring migration of birds. A catalog of the animals was made which includes quite a long list of birds, a number of which were the common but now are rare. "The great emigration of geese, swans, ducks and cranes commenced on the 22nd of February and terminated the latter end of March, 1820." The

species described as new, which were collected here, are: "*Fringilla graminea*, Lark Sparrow; "*Sylvia celatus*," Orange-crowned Warbler; "*Sylvia bifasciata*," which is the "*Sylvia cerulea*" of Wilson, described in 1810; "*Limosa scolopacea*" Long-billed Dowitcher; "*Felidna pectoralis*," which is the "*Tringa maculata*" of Vieillot, described in 1819.

The "Account" does not again mention the collection of a new species of birds till the expedition is in camp at the place where the South Platte issues from the mountains, July 6th to 9th. "We observe here the obscure wren, a bird more closely related to the great Carolina Wren of Wilson than any other we have seen." This is the Rock Wren, and to it Say gave the name "*Treglodytes obsoleta*." On July 9th the expedition moved from its camp on the South Platte, going southward and camped at night on "Defile Creek," which appears to be the small stream now known as Plum Creek. July 10th was Sunday and the expedition remained in camp for the day. At this camp was taken the Land-tiled Pigeon which Say named "*Columba fasciata*," and also the Dusky Grouse, "*Tetrao obscurus*." At the camp on "Boiling-spring creek," not far from the site of Colorado Springs, were taken "*Fringilla psaltria*," the Arkansas Gold Finch; and "*Fringilla frontalis*" the House Finch. "In the timber along the creek the sparrow-hawk, mockingbird, robin, red-head woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, dove, winter wren, towhee, bunting, yellow-breasted chat, and several other birds were seen." It was from this camp that Dr. James with two companions made the ascent of what is now Pike's Pike, the first to ascend the lofty mountain.

The next camping place was on the banks on the Arkansas river, where

the city of Pueblo now stands, and the expedition reached this place July 16th. From this camp Captain Bell with Dr. James and two other men ascended the Arkansas river to the mountains and noted the springs where Canon City now stands. Here they took two small birds: "*Hirundo lunifrons*," the Cliff Swallow and "*Emberezia amoena*," the Lazuli Bunting.

Concerning the Cliff Swallow Dr. Coues wrote in "*Birds of the Colorado Valley*": "Discovery of this notable Swallow, commonly attributed to Say, was made long before Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains, though the species was first named in the book which treats of that interesting journey." While descending the Arkansas river, on July 20th, the Arkansas Kingbird was taken; which we still know as "*Tyranus verticalis* Say."

Some of the descriptions of the birds are included in the next of the "Account," and some of them are in the shape of notes appended at the end of a volume. Most of the birds which Mr. Say saw and studied in the summer of 1820 are still here, but a hundred years has made notable changes in the appearance of the land, and also in bird life. No longer is there "the great emigration of geese, swans, ducks and cranes" in the early spring at Council Bluffs. Where were then silent and uninhabited places are now cultivated farms and busy towns. And when we look at the modern ornithological books we find changes in them. Some of the names which Mr. Say gave to his new species of birds are just as he wrote them, but for a number the genus name has been changed. The progress of Ornithology has made smaller groups and thus more general and new names.

Windsor, Colo.

### A Mocking Bird's Nest

Many bird lovers in various parts of the country were trying to attract birds by putting up nesting boxes and by maintaining bird baths and feeding stations, and it may be of interest to note briefly the success of Mr. Joseph S. Snyder of Eustis Ave., Wakefield, Mass, who has among other feathered friends which frequent his lawn and bird bath, the only Mockingbird of which I have any record for this locality.

Mr. Snyder frequently spoke of his rare visitor when we met while waiting for the train to Boston and I was much interested, but when one morning in late July he finally told me that the Mockingbird had built a nest in a little tree near his garage and invited me to come up and inspect it, I was indeed surprised and of course accepted the invitation. It was late in the afternoon of July 29th, 1920 when I arrived at Mr. Snyder's home and the Mocking Bird was sitting closely on her nest in the top of a slender pitch pine tree. She did not leave the nest until Mr. Snyder gently tapped the trunk on the tree and then she flew to the top of a nearby pine and from there to the roof of the house where I had a good view of her through my field glass.

By placing a light ladder against the tree we could climb up and view the contents of the nest with ease. There were three eggs. The nest was about fifteen feet from the ground and was made of grass, paper, cloth and string, stuck together with mud, and the nest lining was of fine grass with one small piece of string. While we were examining the nest the bird came back into a nearby tree and anxiously watched us, occasionally uttering a rather hoarse "Chip." There was no sign of the male bird, however, and if the nesting bird has a mate he has

not yet been seen by anyone.

Mr. Snyder has had good success in attracting common birds for several seasons but this record seems to be exceptional.

H. O. Green,  
Wakefield, Mass..

#### One Day In Southwest Missouri

On June 27th, 1917, the Scout Master of the Marionville troop of Boy Scouts, with myself and three other Scout Leaders set out in a Henry Ford for Galena, Mo., twenty miles away. In this drive at first we find prairies and then drop off into the head waters of a creek, following it for about twelve miles. Then we cross the range of hills and follow another valley into Galena, on the James River.

As our business was to locate a suitable location for a two weeks Scout camp we explored the James for a matter of eight miles, up and down. This trip gave a a very represent list of birds of this section. My list which follows is not given in A. O. U. order but copied from my note book as seen:

477. Blue Jay  
611. Purple Martin  
587. Towhee  
593. Cardinal  
506. Orchard Oriole  
731. Tufted Titmouse  
444. Kingbird  
495. Cowbird  
563. Field Sparrow  
56. English Sparrow  
560. Chipping Sparrow  
704. Catbird  
529. Goldfinch  
412. Flickers  
316. Mourning Dove  
598. Indigo Bunting  
604. Dickcissel  
325. Turkey Vulture  
766. Blue Bird  
289. Bob White

456. Phoebe  
616. Bank Swallow  
501. Meadow Lark  
652. Yellow Warbler  
326. Black Vulture  
474b. Prairie Horned Lark  
392. Hairy Woodpecker  
337. Red Tailed Hawk  
610. Summer Tanger  
394. Woodpecker  
634. Red Eyed Vireo  
200. Little Blue Heron  
194. Great Blue Heron  
191. Least Bittern  
617. Rough Winged Swallow  
703. Mocking Bird  
552. Lark Sparrow  
409. Red Bellied Woodpecker  
461. Pewee  
390. Kingfisher  
761. Robin  
406. Red Headed Woodpecker  
452. Crested Flycatcher  
735. Chickadee  
387. Yellow Billed Cuckoo  
673. Prairie Warbler  
719. Bewick Wren  
488. Crow  
727. White Breasted Nuthatch  
751. Blue Gery Gnat Catcher  
423. Chimney Swift  
636. Black and White Warbler  
505. Brown Thrasher  
190. American Bittern  
676. Water Thrush  
663a. Sycamore Warbler  
755. Wood Thrush  
333. Coppers Hawk  
683. Yellow Breasted Chat  
681. Md. Yellow Throat  
718. Carolina Wren

Total 65 species seen in one day on the camp. In the whole time spent on the river, the following were added: Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Parula Warbler, Green Heron, Night Hawk and Whip-poor-will.

That sort of list made out by five



competent observers is good, indeed, for this country.

Johnson Neff,  
Marionville, Mo.

#### Golden Eagle and Horned Owl

On January, 1907, while out hunting Coyotes along Lac La Monne Creek my favorite winter sport, I noticed a Great Horned Owl perched on a stub eating a rabbit, about 75 yards from where I was standing. I raised my 30-30 and was about to collect the Owl when a Golden Eagle appeared on the scene, dropping on to the stub and appropriating the rabbit which the Owl had very quickly abandoned without any argument. So I collected the Eagle instead.

The number of Eagles in the country that winter both Golden and Bald headed, the Golden Eagle predominating, would hardly be believed unless actually witnessed. Every little muskey had one or two and some four or five of the great bird perched on stubs or soaring over head, all living on the rabbits which were present in thousands. Eagles and Ravens were a great nuisance to the trappers that winter, destroying many fine skins. Other birds of prey, Owls and Goshawk and Ravens were also numerous, also lynx, coyotes and foxes, all living on the unfortunate rabbits which increase to almost inconceivable numbers about every seven years.

The following winter you could walk many miles without crossing a rabbit track and the birds and animals of prey had departed.

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvidere, Alta.

#### An Early Arrival

On January 29, 1920, I saw the first Purple Grackle of the season. It was a bitter cold morning several degrees below zero and the bird was sitting in

the top of a Maple tree. As these birds do not commonly arrive from the South before March 15, and then in groups of 9 or 10 birds, I think this an uncommon occurrence for this section.

E. A. Wheeler.  
East Randolph, N. Y.

#### Mixed Sets

In looking over the October 1919 issue of Oologist I note a list of curious eggs by W. A. Strong, San Jose, Calif., and I thought I would see what I had on record for 1919, which follows:

295 1-5, Gambel's Partridge, nest 6 feet up in Mesquite tree, appeared to be old nest of Crissal's Thrasher, three of the eggs had been drilled by a woodpecker. Date May 5, 1919.

498a 1-2, Sonoran Red-wing, May 22, 1919. One Dwarf Cowbird egg in this set.

498a 1-3, Sonoran Red-wing, June 1, 1919. One Dwarf Cowbird egg in this set.

498a 1-3, Sonoran Red-wing, June 6, 1919. One Dwarf Cowbird egg in this set.

592 1-4, Abert's Towhee, May 14, 1919. Two Dwarf Cowbird eggs in this set.

592 1-4, Abert's Towhee, May 21, 1919. Three Dwarf Cowbird eggs in this set.

592 1-2, Abert's Towhee, May 29, 1919. Three Dwarf Cowbird eggs in this set.

On June 4, 1919 I took two sets of three Abert's Towhee, each containing one Dwarf Cowbird egg, and in June I took one set of three and one set of two, also Abert's Towhee, each containing one egg of Dwarf Cowbird.

On June 28 I took a set of three and on June 30 I took a set of two Abert's Towhee each containing one egg of Dwarf Cowbird.

Edgar M. LeBaron,  
Mesa, Arizona.

WANTED—Sets of eggs, side blown, of Raptores (excluding Owls) of the world. Cash or Exchange. H. K. SWANN, Thorncombe, Lyonsdown, New Barnet, Herbs, England.

For 30 Days Only I will exchange lots of 500 datas blanks for sets, give me an offer. Your name on the datas. Merrills' Paraque wanted.. EDWARD S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

I Wish to Buy single eggs, of a number of species. Imperfect eggs acceptable, of rarer kinds. Say what you have. Still in hand a number of medium value negatives at sixty-five cents per dozen. Quantities of bird magazines at low prices. P. B. PEABODY, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

MAMMALS—I want skins of North American Weasles. Will give in exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or mammals on Bird materials. Nothing but A No. 1 skins desired or sent out. I also want North American Fauna Numbers 4, 50, 7, 16, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28, 30. Cash or exchange for same. ALEX WALKER, Blaine, Ore.

Can use two copies of the A. O. U., 1910 check list. Barrows' Birds of Michigan, and these magazines; Bittern, Vol. 1, No. 3; Condor, Vol. v, Nos. 4, 5, 6; Hawkeye O. and O., Vol. 1, all; Vol. II, 1 to 5; Journal Maine, Vol. iv, Nos. 2 and 33; Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 1, No. 1; Museum, Vol. 1, No. 3; Oregon Naturalist, Vol. 1, No. 2; O. and O., Semi Annual, Vol. 1, No. 1; Vol. 11, No. 1; Vol. III, No. 2; Western Ornithologist, Vol. I, No. 3; Nidologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 6; Wilson Bulletin, Nos. 1 to 85; Auk, 1908 to 1917 inclusive. Offer for above, cash, old bird magazines, sets or skins. ALBERT F. GANIER, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

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Of The Oologist, published monthly, at Albion, N. Y., for October, 1920.  
STATE OF ILLINOIS.

County of Marshall—ss:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. M. Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor and owner of The Oologist and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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VOL. XXXVII. No. 11.

ALBION, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 403

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# THE OOLOGIST

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notices inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

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FOR EXCHANGE—A. O. U. 77, 408, 413, 560a and 683a. Can use any common sets. JOHN B. HURLEY, Yakima, Wash.

WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE notes or correspond with any observers in the Ozark Mountains. P. ROBERTS, Conway, Mo.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 11

ALBION, N. Y., NOV. 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 403

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## MIGRATION

The golden month of October and the following month of November are the best fall months for observing migration. Trip into the field, woods and swamp will amply pay any bird student for the time spent. The wonderful little understood instinct of migration is asserting itself in the mind of the feathered tribe. That which causes the delicate shore bird to brave more than two thousand miles of open stormy sea which causes the sturdy gander to lead his flock through hundreds of miles of flying snow amid the clouds; that magnet which compels the tiny wren and warbler to leave summer home and cross the wild Gulf of Mexico at one flight is in operation. A half day spent with these strange wanderers will disclose perhaps something new to the observer and if so that is worth while.

—R. M. Barnes

### An October Medley of Birds

One morning in October along a weed willow brush and butternut tree grown swale I found an interesting medley of birds.

Robins came from the Northward in sixes and dozens and fluttered around the thickets with excited "Yipps."

Bluebirds, evidently a family, flitted about uttering a thrush-like trill, darting at each other around the butternut tree and they took turn inspecting a hole in a limb.

Golden Crowned Kinglets frisked their tiny selves from limb to limb and tree to tree, exhibiting their golden crowns in flashes as they clung to the bottom of limbs and peared into decayed crevices and places around dead limbs.

Purple Finches—a company of about 20 were down in the leafless growth of willow whips, but quickly dashed away at my approach, flying in a most erratic manner.

White-throated Sparrows were common all along the thicket, uttering subdued whistles and "chinks" as they cavorted with each other. Song Sparrows tried to sing but gave it up when Robin guyed them with a mellow "tot-tot-tot."

Slate-colored Juncos were represented by four or five individuals all in sober dress.

Myrtle Warblers were heard continually but only saw four or five birds, however, I heard them uttering their characteristic "chip" all day.

Crows cawed and flopped and congregated in nearby pines.

Chipping Sparrows were full of vim, dashing at each other, chasing Bluebirds playfully and I saw one chase a Robin for rods uttering excited squeaks. I do not recall seeing the chipping sparrow so full of activity, they flashed at each other, darted at

Bluebirds who seemed to slightly resent their being so "fresh."

Among all this excited and fluttering throng of "migration fevered" birds a Downey Woodpecker calmly pecked and pecked and said never a word.

C. F. Stone,  
Branchport, N. Y.

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### ABROAD

Our friend, R. L. Moore, of Vernon, Texas, sends us a marked copy of the "Cunard Daily Bulletin," of Oct. 6th, published abroad the Aquitania from which we assume that he is either on his way to or from Europe; probably after that Great Auk's Egg that is known to be on the market over there. We wish him success.

The Bulletin contains the following article:

#### The Bird of Beauty

Assurance that the flamingo, bird of beauty and mystery, will escape extinction is contained in a letter received by John Oliver La Gorce, vice-director of the National Geographic Society, from H. E. W. Grant, colonial governor of the Bahamas, which says:

"You will be glad to hear that an order in council has been passed giving complete protection to the flamingo. This glory of our marshes owes your expedition a debt of gratitude."

The action of the Bahamas council was taken following an expedition which trailed the flamingo, the most beautiful of the world's larger birds, to its last stand, took motion pictures of the timorous birds, brought about a realization of how near they were to becoming extinct in the new world through annihilation by native sponge fishermen, who hunted them down for food purposes at the nesting and moulting season.

The first American naturalist to locate and study the gorgeous flamingo

was Dr. Frank M. Chapman, in 1901, when he estimated that some 20,000 flamingoes were to be found on one of the little known islands of the Bahamas group. Since then, it is believed, fully two-thirds of the colonies have perished.

The expedition that spent ten days in the abysmal salt swamps of Andros Island, filming the flamingo and studying his habitat for scientific purposes, was sent out by the Miami Aquarium Association, and the personnel of the party included James A. Allison, president of the association; Carl G. Fisher, its vice-president; Louis A. Fuertes, nature artist and bird life expert; Norman McClintock, naturalist and bird photographer; Louis L. Mowbray, technical director of the Miami Aquarium; Charles Harrison Thompson, Florida hunter and fish expert; John H. Levi and John Oliver La' Gorce, secretary-treasurer of the Aquarium Association and vice-director of the National Geographic Society.

"L'Apache," Mr. Allison's yacht, was the mother ship of the expedition, and the express cruiser, "Shadow V." was used as a scout boat. Canvas canoes were taken along to get into the shallow salt creeks and nose into the lagoons for deep entrances to the murky swamps where the flamingo hides. A Bahama guide, Peter Bannister, who had aided Dr. Chapman's party nineteen years ago, also went with the party.

After penetrating to the utmost navigable points with the canoes it was necessary to traverse miles of the "swash" or tidal marl marshes, carrying the heavy cameras and motion picture machines, in search for the birds. Wading in the water up to the waist, knee deep in the marl mud, was the daily programme, while blinding swarms of mosquitoes compelled nightly retreats to "L'Apache," an-

chored several miles off-shore.

But the hardships found a worthy reward when the party came upon colonies of several hundred birds, described by Mr. LaGorce as "a flaming mass of brilliant scarlet bodies, jet black beneath the huge wings, with their long, slender necks gracefully lowering and raising their Roman-nosed heads as they sought beneath the water the tiny spiral shell, known to scientists as 'cerithium,' upon which the flamingo lives exclusively in its native habitat."

The expedition gathered much valuable scientific material, not only concerning the life habits of the flamingo, but of other rare birds and fish of the Bahamas. The isolation of the flamingo may be sensed from the fact that the members of the party were the first white men to land at Mangrove Key in seven years. Mangrove Key is a small hamlet, presided over by a crown commission, the only visible sign of British authority to be found on an island ninety miles long and forty wide. Because of this isolation many of the little known "out islands" of the Bahamas, only now and then visited by the sponge fishers, have preserved primitive conditions that hold secrets of high value to the naturalist.

Both Colonial Gov. Grant and F. C. Wells-Durant, colonial secretary of the Bahamas, extended every courtesy and assistance and were deeply interested in the results of the expedition, especially of the discovery which pointed to the threatened extinction of the flamingo. The Bahama law has protected the flamingo for fifteen years, but the habitat of the bird is so far from settlements that little attention has been paid to the menace of the spongers. The party found spongers in the act of killing the birds, and a government official swore in



Bannister, the negro guide, the only English subject present, as a deputy game warden, and thus brought about the first arrest of the kind ever made.

## Notes From Arlington, Mass.

One day last May while standing under the willows on the shore of Spy Pond watching a Yellow Warbler building its nest, I saw a crow a short distance away suddenly drop from the top of a stump to the ground and commence picking. I hurried toward it and on reaching the spot I found a Robin's nest that had been in the decayed side of the stump, tipped over and on the ground bits of egg shell and a few drops of yolk and a albumen. The Yellow Warbler's nest was destroyed in the same way later. I found it dislodged and the eggs gone.

Now within a hundred feet of this Robin's nest were three Purple Grackles' nests, each containing eggs. Within a hundred yards there were a dozen more, some built in the slender tops of the tall willows, others lower down or in the bushes. Those easy of access I could look into and watch and those higher up I could often see the long tail of the Grackle protruding over the edge and later on observed them feeding their young. I visited this locality many times this spring, always saw the Crows and often saw them in close proximity to the Grackles nest. Yet the Grackles did not seem to be disturbed by their presence. From close observations I am confident they were in no wise molested by the Crows. Question? Can the Purple Grackle effectually defend its nest from the ravages of the Crow or have Crows more respect for *Quiscalus*?

H. B. Holbrook,  
Arlington, Mass.

## Tree Swallows In the Autumn

Although the following notes give no more than glimpses of the Tree Swallow at the time when it is preparing to leave New England and begin its southward migration, it is hoped that they will also call to mind the spirit of happy playfulness in which the birds make the journey, as well as the orderly precision of the impetus which drives them onward. The notes were written when the birds were in view, or immediately afterwards, on their main line of travel, the sea coast.

Aug. 13-16, 1915. Ipswich. We saw Tree Swallows in large numbers on the 14th and 15th, chiefly gathered in good-sized companies of twenty to forty birds, sitting close together on the wires by the roadsides. The birds were most numerous in the three or four miles of country between the town and the sand hills. Here, there were perhaps half a dozen such flocks which circled out over the fields as we approached in the car and returned to the perches on the wires after we had passed. We saw no general flocking; the effect was rather that each local colony had kept to itself, and that the migratory instinct had not yet driven these birds together into a great band. However, it was apparent that some individuals had already started on their southerly flight, for throughout the afternoon of the 15th, Swallows continually passed along the sea-shore, flying southward, either over the beach or over the ocean a short distance from the shore. The majority of these Swallows were *Iridoprocne*, perhaps 75%, the remainder were Barn Swallows. Once or twice, a Swallow, as it coursed along the beach, swooped at a small Shorebird which, starting into the air, led the Swallow a chase in which there was twisting and turning, rising



Swainson's Warbler.—Photo by Rev. W. Rogers



Swainson's Warbler.—Photo by Rev. W. Rogers



and darting down of the most rapid kind before the Swallow continued on its way and the Sandpiper settled on the beach again to feed. This is an instance of the actual sea-beach being used as a migration line.

Sept. 12, 1917. Ipswich. This morning three or four hundred Tree Swallows flew due east over the dunes toward the sea-coast. They fly widely separated, giving the high twitter and the guttural note as in their song, flying with long periods of sailing, with wings out-stretched between periods of regular flight. When we reach the sea, all the Swallows are flying toward the south.

Sept. 13, 1917. Ipswich. When we returned from the sandhills at 5:35 this p. m., a great number of Tree Swallows, 500 at least, were flying about the steeple of the church on the Town Common. Some of them sat on the weather-cock; once I counted nine birds clinging to the head, back and tail of the gilded rooster. For ten minutes or so they flew about, the flock passing over an area of several acres. The birds, without doubt, were acting under powerful excitement. As we watched them, we caught the feeling ourselves and realized that this vicinity was for a purpose. Near the weather-vane the birds flew closer together; many fluttered about those already perched and attempted to alight.

All of a sudden the haphazard flight changed to an orderly procession in which about two hundred birds wheeled in a great spiral and, mounting into the air to a considerable height above the steeple and almost over it, sailed away due south. At the moment the flock formed and separated from the other birds, the method of flight changed from an apparently aimless circling of the individual birds to a slow, steady progress, mainly on set wings, the birds all moving together.

Those which went off to the south moved as if under the influence of a powerful magnet which had been waved around the steeple and then drawn slowly away, pulling the birds in a steady stream after it. Many were left behind, more than half the original flock, I think. These continued their maneuvers for ten minutes near the steeple, but not around it, then gradually disappeared, but not in a body toward the south.

Sept. 14, 1917. Ipswich. Some hundred or so Tree Swallows at the pond this a. m. The birds, young and old in about equal numbers, sat on the wire fence, splashed in the pond, and flew about apparently in search of food. Some sat in the roadway and the grass adjoining, playing with feathers, picking them up from the ground and flying off with them, letting them fall, catching them again as they drifted in the air, sunning themselves, waddling about; they disported in a careless fashion, evidently with no thought of migration. There was no gathering at the steeple in the evening.

Winsor M. Tyler, M. D.,  
Lexington, Mass.

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### BIRD TRAVEL NOTES

By Ramon Graham

We left Ft. Worth in my tin Lizzie on a journey south. I was surprised at the number of Bob-Whites and Doves being so plentiful along the road to Waco, Austin, and San Antonio, bird life was plentiful all along the way. In San Antonio at one of the parks there was a fine collection of birds, among them was an Albino Turkey Vulture, several Eagles and Owls and Audubons Cacara.

We took in San Antonio, along the street and plazas the great tailed Grackle and Inca Doves were noticed. We are now camped on the Medina



Lake where bird life is plentiful, among which is the White Winged Doves which have nests all around Camp. We drove the Ford under a large live oak moss covered tree, the lower limbs touched the top of the Ford. My partner, Harry Fuller, said "Look at the Humming Bird fighting the Caracara; and to our surprise the Humming Bird's nest with one egg was on an overhanging limb that touched our Ford top.

We go from here to Camp Christa, Texas, and will take notes along the way, so will let you hear from us again.

R. Graham.

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#### BUZZARDS

Just a line in regard to "Cathartes Aura." This grand Buzzard is holding its own in this part I think, if any thing gains in numbers a little but as yet there are not very many records of its eggs being taken. Mr. A. A. Wood and myself took a set of one from a large hollow log on the 18th of May last year but it is far advanced. There was another set down near —, Ont., but in chopping open the log both were broken. A pair of young birds were taken in 1918 from the same wood that we found the egg in. Dan McNeill is now in Springbank Park near London, Ont. There were three pairs around, the place where we took the nest and were very tame but this was the only nest we could find, although there were lots of good nesting logs in this vicinity.

Walter R. Campbell,  
Lobo, Ont.

---

#### TEXAS DUCK MIGRATION NOTES No. 1

The Ducks arrived from the North on their Southern migration tour and settled on Lake Worth as follows:

During the first part of October a

few Wood Ducks was scattered through the timbered part of the lake. Next observed, singles of Scaup and Pintail. In past seasons the first Ducks to show up by the hundreds were Ruddys, but as the little ignorant brats have got shot to pieces, they are not as plentiful as usual. You could expect nothing else. Because they never would fly. Just dive and be shot at every time they come up. I think the captains of what few bunches come in this season must have given flight orders instead of diving. Because mighty few were killed. Next a few small bunches of Red-heads and Canvas-backs. Several large bunches of unidentified Ducks passed over, bound for the Gulf. Canada Geese stopped for short rests. But one bunch that G. E. Maxon got into stopped to rest quite a while as he got six and now they rest in his camps with his private collection of Water-birds. Spoon Bills, mostly females, were observed in small bunches. During the last part of October, it was surprising to see how plentiful the Ducks were getting. They would come in just ahead of a Norther and depart during the Norther. Hundreds of Scaup Ducks, bunch after bunch, would settle and rest, then leave. Ruddys, Canvas-backs, Red-heads, Teal Mallards, Wedgeons and Spoon-bills were well scattered over the lake. As these Ducks peacefully settled on the lake an unwelcome reception was given them. Some went away as they came in good health, but many went away crippled, others stayed dead on the water, never to return to the North again, while others may be called lucky and return back North in good health and happy over their daring adventures through the thousands of bullets that they heard through the South.

Ramon Graham,  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

TEXAS BIRD MIGRATION NOTES  
No. 3

What a wonderful and exciting feeling it must be for the birds to get together and the captain of the bunch says all aboard for the warmer climates. And off they go with some old heads and mostly young that have never seen the South and its bunch of guns. But it's either face a freeze-up or guns and they say, let's try the guns.

The Swallows and the Jays come and go. It's funny to watch their actions; it's easy to tell that all the following birds are strangers. The Cardinal jumps here and there during October morns, while farther south Cardinaes, Wrens and Jays that are breeders around here are happy in the warmer climates. But we observe the strangers of the Crows, Robins Mocking Birds. A Towhee is seen scratching in the leaves; these are new leaves to him. But he's happy. Gold Finches are in the tree tops. Juncoes in bunches are happily playing in their new southern homes. While away in the air the Sandhill Cranes are heard and are on their way to the sandy southern country. And the Pelicans are observed feeding in the shallow waters of the lake making a collection of whatever comes in reach of their seine. Bugs, insects of all kinds, now and then a small fish; sometimes a catfish. A few Brown Pelicans take a chance on stopping for a rest. But mighty few have been observed here. Great Blue Herons are found in singles all over the lake. Loons are getting more bold and stop to try their diving ability, to some of them sorrow. A few Water Turkey or Cormorant fly back and forth over the rough waters. The Kingfisher sets silently over a prospective fishing place. Sandpipers and Killdeer are around the water's edge. Herring gulls and Common

Terns are flying and dipping now and then. The coots that are plentifully scattered here and there are in more danger than they think. Some hunters don't know a Duck from a Jack Snipe. The little Pied-billed Grebe is having fair luck with his diving. Bluebirds, Flickers and Woodpeckers are here and there in the tree tops. Cowbirds, Meadow Larks, Horned Larks and Rusty Blackbirds are found in the plowed lands close by. Chickadees are dee deeing in the tree tops. Robins in small bunches are up every creek. There used to be hundreds of them. But now they are not as plentiful as usual. Not a Waxwing in sight. Maybe they haven't migrated yet. Now comes over the lake like a dark cloud, Crows lined up like aeroplanes. Crow after Crow all going South. It takes these old November days to make bird life plentiful and migration sure in and around the lake. All that the bird lovers can wish is that nine-tenths of all the migratory birds get back safely to their breeding grounds, after their stay in the South.

Ramon Graham,  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

1919

## BIRDS OF DUCK LAKE, MICH.

I am sending you a list of birds observed by myself and Mr. B. Purdy of Milford, Mich, on a trip to Duck Lake.

Duck Lake is one of the many lakes in Oakland County and is well suited for shore and marsh birds. Part of the lake is marshy, grown up to cat-tails and bull rushes. While the other part is a hard sand beach, with rolling meadows, surrounding wood lots of oak, maple, beech, situated some little distance back from the lake with swamps still farther back.

We found Pied-billed Grebe, Loon and myriads of Red-winged Black birds nesting.

6 Pied-billed Grebe (nesting 5 nests found).

7 Loon (one nest of two fresh eggs found).

51 Herring Gull

77 Black Tern

132 Mallard Duck

148 American Scaup Duck

190 American Bittern

194 Great Blue Heron

201 Green Heron

212 Virginia Rail

214 Carolina Rail

221 American Coot

252 Least Sandpiper

254 Greater Yellow Legs

255 Lesser Yellow Legs

263 Spotted Sandpiper

273 Killdeer

289 Bob White

306 Ruffed Grouse

316 Mourning Dove

331 Marsh Hawk

332 Sharp Shinned Hawk

337 Red-tailed Hawk

339 Red Shouldered Hawk

360 Sparrow Hawk

390 Belted King Fisher

406 Red-headed Woodpecker

412 Flicker

420 Night Hawk

444 King Bird

456 Phoebe

474 Horned Lark

488 Am. Crow

494 Bobolink

495 Cow Bird

498 Red-winged Blackbird

501 Meadow Lark

511 Purple Grackle

540 Vesper Sparrow

542a Savanah Sparrow

546 Grasshopper Sparrow

547 Sparrow

554 White Crowned Sparrow

558 White Throated Sparrow

560 Chipping Sparrow

580 Song Sparrow

514 Swamp Sparrow

587 Towhee

613 Barn Swallow

614 Tree Swallow

652 Yellow Warbler

714 Catbird

761 Long-billed Marsh Wren

761 Robin

766 Blue Bird

Walter E. Hasting,  
South Lyon, Mich.

#### LOCAL RARITIES

Birds which are quite common on their main range are quite rare as the limit of their range approaches and in some sections where they were once common are now seldom seen. In a residence of twenty years off and in the Pembina River District about sixty miles north of Edmonton, I have only recently seen a specimen of the American Magpie, observing one flying over on the 15th of October 1919. I have frequently seen them in Southern Alberta or about as far north as Red Deer. Old timers tell me they were once common around Edmonton and on inquiring from one of my Half-breed hunting partners he replied, "Yes, lots of them around St. Albert when I was a kid." This would be about thirty years ago. Another Half-breed informs me they were once common along the Pembina River. The only way I can account for the absence at present of these birds is that in settlement of the country they have been exterminated by the poison and steel traps of the white man. This applies also to a lesser extent to the Canada Jay and Northern Raven which were both very numerous the first few years I was in the country, the first is a resident and the latter a winter visitor but are not now plentiful. The whole wooded country is closely trapped and a considerable amount of poison is used. Poison exterminates both fur and feathers and

in my opinion should never be used, and seldom is by Indians or Half-breeds. The white man is the offender. If a hunter has not sufficient skill to catch the wily fox, coyote and timber wolf in traps he should quit the game and leave it to those who can. Many meat eating birds fall victims to the steel traps, chiefly Canada Jays and Ravens, Goshawks, Horned Owls, Eagles and Hawk Owls to a lesser extent. In fact the Canada Jays and the Flying and Red Squirrels are a pest to the trapper and it is no uncommon thing to have a Canada Jay and a young weasel, mink, otter, Martin trap before you have walked out of sight, after making the set. Meat eating birds would naturally have a better chance to exist in the Southern plains country which would not be so closely trapped as the northern wooded country where almost every settler family has a weasel trap out.

Another bird which I have only seen one specimen on the Pembina is the Turkey Buzzard. On May 31st, 1914, I saw one flying low over the river. I recognized it at once, having seen many in California when I was a boy. My companion, also an American, also recognized it.

The Mourning Dove is a rare summer resident in the country north of Edmonton and I have seen perhaps a dozen specimens. The last one I saw was on October 4th, '15 near Paddle River. In the spring of 1918 I also saw a Mourning Dove on Battle Prairie about ninety miles north of Peace River crossing, feeding on the prairie. This is probably the furthest north record for the Mourning Dove.

Several years ago while conducting a trading post at Pembina crossing the Indian at Shoal Lake about twenty five miles north sent down a bird for me to identify as they had never seen

one like it before. It proved to be a specimen of Clark's Crow which had strayed from its mountain home two hundred or more miles distant. I have never seen one since. I also have heard that they have been shot at Shoal Lake and in the winter of 1913 my partner saw a flock at Moose Lake, a few miles north of Muror Landing, but as he did not bring me a specimen I did not know to which species they belonged.

Another bird which is not common but is occasionally seen and heard is the Blue Jay and the few individuals with us appear to be resident and stay pretty well in the heavy spruce woods. They are heard more often than seen. It might be worth while collecting a few specimens for comparison with the Eastern Blue Jay to see if they differ in any respect. The Northern Pileated Woodpecker was scarce in '99, when I first came to the Pembina River, but seem to be now on the increase, frequenting the heavy timber along the river. His handsome and conspicuous appearance often brings him to grief at the hands of the sportsman out to kill "something," it does not matter much what. It is intolerable that this class of destroyers who kill and throw away should be immune to all laws for bird protection to almost impossibility of proof, while the responsible collector who kills only when necessary and preserves his specimens with best of care is allowed only a pair of birds and one set of eggs per annum and is forced to pay five dollars for the scant privilege. Not that I would object to paying five dollars or twenty-five dollars under a liberal law, that would allow of say half a dozen birds and sets per annum of each species. Species in danger of extermination could be totally protected or only one



pair of birds and only one set allowed to be taken.

We have a wonderful amount of bird life in Alberta around our lakes, sloughs and forests but our legislators have made it impossible for a naturalist to avail himself of it, doubtless in ignorance of the subject.

A. D. Henderson.

#### SHARP-SHINS AND PILEATEDS

Several seasons back on the 5th of May I paid a visit to my old stamping grounds five or six miles down the river at a wooded uninhabited region that has always been a fine place for birds both large and small. I was up at 4 a. m. and was soon hitting the high places on the river road. It was quite chilly and ice had formed on the little pools and puddles on the road. After the sun got out through it soon warmed up and turned out to be a fine morning.

On the way over the big hill, the steep and precipitous sides of which are covered with much hemlocks, I had on a former trip seen a Sharp-shin sticking pretty close. I looked for Sharpy when I went over and she was there but I kept right on for the Flats. At the Flats the road cuts across and does not get near the river for several miles, so I cut through the woods towards the river. I found a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest but didn't take time to go up. At the second Flat I found quite a little life. A pileated Woodpecker cackled frequently, a Red-shouldered Hawk or two was about and I saw several black squirrels. In the thick hemlock swamp I scared a pair of Great Blue Herons out of the large trees and a Horned Owl from some hemlocks. As I circled about in the swamp a female Sharp-shinned got very noisy and stuck close by, so I began looking carefully through the smaller hemlocks. I soon

saw the nest thirty feet up in a hemlock and climbing up I found it was all ready for eggs. I then went to the Flat along the river and on the gravel bar saw several Kill-deer and Spotted Sandpipers, also a pair of Greater Yellow-legs. In the water near by was a lone male Lesser Scaup Duck.

While going along slowly I saw a Pileated fly from a giant old sycamore. Going over that way I saw several large holes in a large dead section high up. One hole looked new and on the ground was a large quantity of chips scattered about. I pounded the tree hard and out came Mrs. Pileated. She protested loudly and soon left. Concealing myself I waited and very soon both birds came back. After looking about carefully the female entered the nest. I was surprised to find the nest tree so close to the river, as I had twice before found their nest back in the swamp. This sycamore was a hard proposition and an examination of the chips showed that the nest was in a very rotten section of the tree so no attempt was made to get up to it. I kept watch afterwards and found that this tree is used nearly every year.

On the way back over the big hill I found Sharpy still there and quite nervous. It didn't take me long to locate the nest 50 feet up in a hemlock. Later on I got a nice set of four from each of these Sharp-shins' nest. Before I got home I saw an adult Marsh Hawk hawking about over a meadow and during the morning noted quite a few small birds but nothing unusual.

—R. B. Simpson

WANTED—Sets of eggs, side blown. of Raptores (excluding Owls) of the world. Cash or Exchange. H. K. SWANN, Thorncombe, Lyonsdown, New Barnet, Herbs, England.

For 30 Days Only I will exchange lots of 500 datas blanks for sets, give me an offer. Your name on the datas. Merrills' Pararque wanted.. EDWARD S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

I Wish to Buy single eggs, of a number of species. Imperfect eggs acceptable, of rarer kinds. Say what you have. Still in hand a number of medium value negatives at sixty-five cents per dozen. Quantities of bird magazines at low prices. P. B. PEABODY, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

MAMMALS—I want skins of North American Weasles. Will give in exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or mammals on Bird materials. Nothing but A No. 1 skins desired or sent out. I also want North American Fauna Numbers 4, 50, 7, 16, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28, 30. Cash or exchange for same. ALEX WALKER, Blaine, Ore.

Can use two copies of the A. O. U., 1910 check list. Barrows' Birds of Michigan, and these magazines; Bittern, Vol. 1, No. 3; Condor, Vol. v, Nos. 4, 5, 6; Hawkeye O. and O., Vol. 1, all; Vol. II, 1 to 5; Journal Maine, Vol. iv, Nos. 2 and 33; Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 1, No. 1; Museum, Vol. 1, No. 3; Oregon Naturalist, Vol. 1, No. 2; O. and O., Semi Annual, Vol. 1, No. 1; Vol. 11, No. 1; Vol. III, No. 2; Western Ornithologist, Vol. 1, No. 3; Nidologist, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 6; Wilson Bulletin, Nos. 1 to 85; Auk, 1908 to 1917 inclusive. Offer for above, cash, old bird magazines, sets or skins. ALBERT F. GANIER, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., Required by The Act of Congress of Aug. 24, 1912. Of The Oologist, published monthly, at Albion, N. Y., for October, 1920.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

County of Marshall—ss:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. M. Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor and owner of The Oologist and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois; Editor, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois; Managing Editor, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois; Business Manager, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois.

2. That the owners are: R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois. (There is no stock issued and no bonds issued. It is not an incorporated enterprise).

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: There are no bonds issued or outstanding and no mortgages or other securities or indebtedness against the publication. R. Magoon Barnes publishes it as a private personal enterprise only.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of October, 1920.

G. M. Smith, Notary Public.

(My commission expires Feb. 15, 1921.)

# North American Birds Eggs

## FOR EXCHANGE

I have on hand, to offer for exchange for specimens desired by me, two hundred and eighty different varieties of birds eggs. Of some species I have but one set, of others considerable series. Send me a list of what you have for exchange and if it contains anything I want I will send you my list in reply.

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This is an unusual opportunity to secure new specimens or to enlarge series in your collection.

R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILL.

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dex; X, 4-5-6 and index; XIII, 4. Orni-  
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gical magazines. BENJ. ADAMS,  
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WANTED—First Class sets from re-  
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ing the influence of this Journal to do this.

THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVII. No. 12.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC. 1, 1920.

WHOLE NO. 404





## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTS SETS of 2-3-47-136-140-167-196-208-289-305-611. Will exchange mounted alligator, 36 inches long, for sets. Send list. Will send mine. F. M. CARRYL, Maplewood, N. J.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—To Trade birds eggs in sets—almost any kind. Also will buy birds eggs in sets. Send lists right away. ARTHUR BLOCHER, Box 494, Amboy, Illinois.

WANTED—Complete set of "Condor". I have a small collection of sea birds' eggs, excellent for duplicates, that I am offering for this set. THEODORE R. GREER, Sheridan, Ill.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWER, Willard, Mo.

I have 70 copies of all Outdoors, Pop. Mechanics, Loco. Fireman Mag., etc., which will exchange for copies of Bird Lore, Nat'l Geographic and others. FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

WANTED—"Birds of Pennsylvania." by Warren, 1st and 2nd editions. RICHARD F. MILLER, 2526 North Second St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

THE BAILEY MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY, Newport News, Va., desires to secure through exchange or purchase, small mammal skins, and a collection of bird skins and eggs. Submit lists and price. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

FOR DISPOSAL—A large series of sets with nests of Swainson's Warblers. Choice Cabinet Specimens. Make offer. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Enclose 2c stamp for reply. Dr. CLECKLEY'S MUSEUM, Augusta, Ga.

TECCOBS wants correspondents to exchange ornithological observations and experiences. Address Geoffrey Gill, Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. Western Correspondents address Theodore Greer, Sheridan, Illinois.

FOR BEST CASH OFFER—Cones Key Fifth Edition, 12 Vols. like new, A. C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

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FOR DISPOSAL—Four volumes of The Oologist, 1916-1919, inclusive, with October, 1918, supplement. Make offer. H. M. HOLLAND, Galesburg, Ill.

FOR SALE—Vol. VI, VII, VIII, Birds of North and Middle America, E. K. SCHLEICHER, Mathias Point, Va.

ALL WHO ARE WILLING to pay cash for mounted birds and bird skins write to me at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga.

FOR EXCHANGE—A. O. U. 77, 408, 413, 560a and 683a. Can use any common sets. JOHN B. HURLEY, Yakima, Wash.

WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE notes or correspond with any observers in the Ozark Mountains. P. ROBERTS, Conway, Mo.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVII. No. 12

ALBION, N. Y., DEC. 1, 1920.

WHOLE No. 404

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## 1920-1921



THE end of the year is upon us. A flood of memories comes with it. The Oologist mind looks back over the past twelve months and we see air castles builded and plans made for our little publication, wrecked and not achieved. We see others carried out even better than we had planned. The Oologist has survived the panics of 1893-4-5 and 1907. It now boldly sets its course into the present and near future financially strained times, in calm confidence that it is supreme in its chosen field, that its clientele is loyal to a fault, and will see it through the coming storm as they have in similar times in the past.

We have never made promises for the future of this magazine and will not commence doing so now. Unfulfilled promises are the rocks upon which nearly a hundred Natural History publications, of which we have record, have come to grief.

We have however "hopes." We hope and believe that the committee in charge of the new Egg Price List, will get the copy to us so we can get it out in time for the 1921 season. It would be a good idea for each one desiring a copy to place their order now. It will be printed and distributed at absolute cost, not a nickle of profit will be made by us on this catalogue. We also hope to see a great revival in Oology as well as in the general study of Bird Life in 1921, after this new catalogue price list appears. One way to assist in bringing this about is for each member of The Oologist family to renew his subscription for 1921, immediately upon receipt of this number, and when renewing send in another subscription for a young or old friend whom you know to be interested in Birds, their Nests and Eggs. If we could double the subscription list of The Oologist we could give you a better publication and we could pay the the paper maker, the engraver, the printer, and our assistant with less trouble than now. Those who really have the good of The Oologist at heart and who desire to see it continue, and prosper and improve, will give heed to this suggestion.

We sincerely wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

R. M. BARNES.

## FLIGHT OF THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

I wonder how many lovers in the East Central States are familiar with the interesting sky journey taken by the Prairie Horned Lark. Doubtless a large per cent of the observers who spend a portion of their time afield with the birds, have witnessed this extremely interesting performance, but for the benefit of those who have not had this pleasure a few notes on the Larks flight will be appreciated.

You will see the Prairie Horned Lark start up from a field, usually a meadow, where it makes its home, flying almost straight up until it reaches a high altitude, sometimes so high as to be invisible. It flies in relays, so as to speak, making a somewhat jerky flight. It gives its song at short intervals while going up, but when it sings it stops flying and spreads its tail and allows itself to drop downward a short way while it gives its song and then starts up again with renewed energy. It apparently does not want to sing when it wings are in motion. The Horned Lark's song cannot be put in words that mean anything to the reader and can be better described by saying that it is similar to that of the Meadow Lark, but not so rich and sweet as that of this well known musician. It is a sight long to be remembered to see the Horned Lark going upward and giving its attractive song until it has disappeared in the air above, although its song floats down on the spring air to tell the enraptured listener that high in the heavens the Lark is putting its whole soul into joyful song. But the most thrilling part of the performance is yet to come. After the Lark has finished expressing his happiness he closes his wings and shoots to the earth with lightning speed and he does not check his mad fall through

space until within a yard or two of the earth where he opens his wings and alights on a convenient perch as gracefully as if he had been just flying past, instead of falling hundreds of feet. Other individuals less daring do not drop the whole distance at once but open their wings several times on the downward trip and therefore, no such amount of speed is attained. It usually takes them about three seconds to reach the earth but of course this depends on how high in the air they are when they begin their downward drop.

Sometimes when I watch this interesting event I believe that the Horned Lark enjoys the thrilling drop to the earth more than it does singing while high in the air, and it is the former reason that prompts the Lark to make the sky journey. What do other readers who have watched this exhibition of the Prairie Horned Lark think about it?

This Lark is a common bird in the East Central States but because of its dress which is not conspicuous, it is often overlooked.

Fred J. Pierce,  
Winthrop, Ia.

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### H. H. BAILEY

Harold H. Bailey wishes us to announce that he has moved his Museum and Library of National History, to Miami Beach, Florida, where he hopes to establish The Florida Museum of Natural History, at an early date. Mr. Bailey is also already engaged on a book on the Birds of Florida." He will appreciate any notes on birds from that State. Exchanges and correspondence should be addressed to Harold H. Bailey, Route One, Miami, Florida.

—R. M. B.

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### A. C. ABBOTT

Our friend A. C. writes to change

his mailing address to Gallipolis, Ohio. He is sure some mover. Since leaving Chicago, we have mailed "The Oologist" to him in five different states. He should become acquainted with bird life in widely different sections.

—R. M. B.

---

#### W. OTTO EMERSON

This veteran ornithologist (one of the very first with whom we ever exchanged a bird's egg) has turned his splendid collection of 5500 bird skins over to the California Academy of Sciences, in the Golden Gate park at San Francisco. He writes us:

"I don't want to miss any of the Oologists. I never shall loose my bird interest. How could I? After forty years of watchful observations of them here on the home place, "Palm Cottage," I have grown up with since coming to California from Illinois in 1870. I shall devote more of my time to camera work in collecting facts of the bird habits than by the specimens of the individual birds themselves. I have them at all times, living their home habits on the place where I can count them as daily friends, of my door yard. Winter residents from the high Sierras, are very abundant this winter, on account of the early snows on the mountains. Wishing you well and much of the joys of the coming Christmas month, I am in spirit of the olden days."

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#### NESTING HOLES

Many times the thoughts have come to my mind of finding some hole nesting bird, of just how long that hole had been occupied, and how many species of birds had previously nested there. It is a well known fact that some birds will use the same nesting cavity year after year for a long period if they are not disturbed.

Could the venerable oaks, beeches

and maples of our woodlands tell all they had witnessed in this regard, many interesting facts would be revealed. A little limb is broken from a young oak by a storm and in a few years a cavity has formed. It is discovered by a pair of Chickadees, who at once begin nest building. After a few more years the cavity has become enlarged and is perhaps taken over by a pair of Crested Flycatchers. Year after year the cavity enlarges and is taken up by Owls who hold it for many years. Later a racoon or an opossum may take up a home there. Interesting indeed would be the account of such a knot hole, if one could tell of its occupants for a period of twenty years or longer. No doubt many of the older readers of the Oologist could give us some such account.

The particular knot-hole I had in mind, when in response to the Editor's plea for "copy" was a small orchard tree at my home at Cherry Hill farm. The tree was an Indian peach situated at the corner of the orchard about ten yards from the corner of the house. The knot hole was in the trunk at about five feet from the ground. The entrance was about eight inches high and four inches wide. In 1908 the cavity was only a few inches deep but year after year it became deeper. A few times prior to 1912 I had seen Bewicks Wrens, Chickadees, Titmice, and Bluebirds inspecting the knot hole. Once I found a few sticks and leaves that had been put there by a Wren.

It was in 1915 that the cavity was first used as a nesting site. In May of that year a Titmouse built a nest and reared its young there. The eggs hatched about the 18th of May and it was a short while before the youngsters left the nest. On June 13th of the same year a pair of Crested Fly-





Scene on Buffalo Creek  
—Photo by F. J. Pierce.



Buffalo Creek in Midwinter  
—Photo by F. J. Pierce.

catchers were seen building a nest in the peach tree knot hole. As I have seen these birds rather excited at my presence about the nest, I made no notes, but a brood of Flycatchers were raised. The cavity was nearly a foot deep at this time.

The following spring, 1916, Bluebirds, Chickadees, Tufted Titmice and a pair of Bewicks Wrens were continually quarreling over the knot hole. These disputes began in Feb. before the coming of the Crested Flycatcher who again nested in the peach tree. The English Sparrows were never interested in the hole, perhaps because it was too low down, making it easy to break up the nest. This year the Crested Flycatchers began nesting about May 10th. On May 24th there were six eggs in the nest. I did not visit the nest often as it seemed to disturb the birds, and I thought perhaps they might desert the nest. At the edge of the nest was placed the piece of snake skin as is usual with this bird. On visiting the nest on the morning of June 2nd the eggs had hatched. The male was quite noisy and quite proud of his wife and family. All went well until June 13th. About noon that day I heard the Flycatcher making an unusually lot of noise and deciding to investigate, approached the tree. The parent birds flying excitedly about told me that something was wrong. Glancing into the nest I was startled to see a large "Cowsnake" coiled in the cavity. I soon had it out but the large lump in its otherwise slender body and the empty nest gave evidence of its guilt.

About noon the same day I had occasion to pass near the nest when I noticed one of the parent Flycatchers fly up from the ground under the tree. Coming nearer I found one of the young Flycatchers in the weeds on the ground. It was unhurt and evi-

dently was being fed by its parents. I put it into the cavity but it would not stay. It was nearly ready to fly and perhaps it came out all right as the birds were noticed about the place for several days

One December day of 1916 on hearing a pair of Blue Jays making a great outcry in the orchard, what should I find but a gray Screech Owl in the peach tree cavity. At once I had hopes of finding an Owls nest there in the spring. But no bird nested in the peach tree cavity in the year 1917. The usual quarrel among the Bluebirds, Titmice and Wrens took place and the Flycatchers returned in April but not again to nest there where last year's offspring had met fatal consequences.

Passing the tree one June day of that year (1917) I chanced to glance in the old nesting cavity to find a large "Cowsnake" which was treated in the same unkind manner as the one that had destroyed the Flycatchers.

Now the peach tree is gone but its reptile occupants will ever be matters of interest and these notes will record the happenings of the birds that occupied the old Indian peach tree.

Ben J. Blincoe.

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#### WATCHING A HUMMINGBIRD FEED HER YOUNG

By R. A. Sell

One of the pleasures of traveling is making new friends; and this pleasure is greatly enhanced on the second trip by renewing friendships. To an observer of birdlife, the native birds are the old friends of the previous trip.

During the summer of 1915, the writer became acquainted with the hummingbirds of the botanical gardens of the University of California. More glib and graceful, more changeable and elusive than the butterflies,

these sparkling gems of bird life, poisoning above the great tree-trumpet, hanging beneath the tube-cactus bells, flitting across the lilacs, and even chasing the butterflies and humblebees out of the garden, these glowing jewels easily became the most entertaining and elusively interesting objects of that fairy-land of carefully husbanded natural beauty.

When I arrived in Berkeley last Sunday morning, my first trip was to the botanical gardens. Yes, they were there; the same birds—sure, I know my friends—and they were so glad to see me. The familiar greeting and the smile of recognition of the hotel clerk, they added to my pleasure—they swelled my egotism—but there was a tinge of the sordid, there was a graphone ring to the “Glad to see you” and the smile was set in plaster-paris; but here were my old friends, flitting their pleasure, trilling their joy and glowing their rapture as a coal is fanned into flame by the wind.

Two kinds of Hummingbirds are found in these gardens, the Anna and the Allen. It is of the latter that I will write. Mr. T. S. Papastavro told me that there were young birds in the gardens but our search on that day was unsuccessful, however, he showed me a deserted nest—a tiny doll-house affair, carefully woven from plant fibres, hairs and milkweed down, and we saw many of the adults busily about their work. This morning, July 2, I was standing beside the yellow Spanish broom watching the various gyrations of the Hummingbirds, when a rather lonesome call attracted my attention. I soon located a Hummingbird with feathers slightly ruffled. It was among some dead branches that protruded from the clump of tropical blue-bells (*Tochroma tubulosa*) but it was very nervous and kept changing from one branch to another. It’s

“s-s-s-s-oit” was answered from the sage.

The answer was a high-pitched “s-s-s-chick” but the bird that was making the answer seemed in no hurry to leave her work of mincing among the purple plantain-like blossoms of the sage. (How can a Hummingbird get anything from the blossoms of broad-leaved sage, *Salvia involucrata*?) Then she took a turn at the red-rabbit sage, *Grahmi*, meanwhile the calls were being answered more promptly. Then I noted that the bird on the dead limb would occasionally thrust cut its tongue and even open its mouth in an expectant manner.

The calls and answers ceased with a “zit” and the old bird made a slight circle and then dashed at the young one in a manner that seemed fierce; the little one—better not say little one for they were about of equal size—opened its mouth and stretched its head forward. With a dash the old bird thrust her beak down the youngster’s throat and gave two or three hasty twists,—and the feeding was over. I do not think that it took a half minute. The young bird flew away satisfied without making a sound while the old bird flew back to the red-rabbit sage; but she was cross with the humblebees and took occasion to drive two of them away from the flowers.

Of course, I suppose that the old bird regurgitated some of the nectar that she had been sipping into the crop of the young bird, but why did not this young bird make some effort to feed itself, especially since it was about as large as its parent. I went back to the nest to see if the youngster had returned but there were no birds to be seen around there and the nest was cold. This leads to the supposition that Hummingbirds may feed their young after they leave the nest.



Buffalo Creek in Midsummer  
—Photo by F. J. Pierce.



Buffalo Creek During Spring Freshet  
—Photo by F. J. Pierce.



Dr. Grinnell tells me that the Hummingbirds are increasing about the University campus but that for some reason or other, they are much more in evidence during the early spring than they are at this time of the year when the California hillsides are clothed in brown. Like the butterflies, the Hummingbirds seem to come and go with the flowers.

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### TWO MAY DAYS

On looking over my note books recently I came across notes taken on two well remembered days in late May, 26th and 28th, a few seasons back. The Warblers had just about finished nest building and were beginning to lay and I had two pleasant and interesting days with them. The first day I spent on the wooded ridges that divide the river valley from a large mountain stream a few miles north of town. Birds were plentiful although I didn't find many nests this day. My first find of interest was a Magnolia Warblers nest containing one egg. It was on the limb of a little hemlock and was ten feet from the ground. I found a Vireo's nest with one egg and as it was early for Red Eyes to be nesting this may have been a Solitaires. The next time I went that way, however, I found this nest to have been robbed so I am not sure which it was. Along the sides of a ravine I saw a small bird with nesting material in its bill, fly up into a little fork of a limb of a tall tree. After a little trouble I got near enough to the bird on the ground to find it was a Redstart. I was surprised at this find as it was fully 70 feet up to the nest and as a rule I seldom find one over 20 feet up. 10 to 15 feet is the average here and I have seen nests not over two feet up. Down this hollow where there was plenty of hemlock I found a Magnolia nest out on a

long limb of hemlock. Climbing a small tree I pulled the limbs over and found the nest to contain five eggs. Sets of five here are rare and I have only found several out of a great many nests examined. I saw a nest saddled on the limb of a tree. I climbed up and the female never left the nest until I reached the limb on which it had been built. I was within seven feet of her before she left and was surely pleased to find her to be a Blackburnian Warbler. The nest was 25 feet from the ground and seven feet from the trunk on a horizontal limb. The limb was two inches thick where the nest was saddled and it was fastened also to a couple of little sprigs that grew out at that spot. It held a fine set of four, and while I was getting them, the female stayed very close but the male did not appear at all. During the day, I occasionally heard Male Blackburnians singing high up but they usually nest high and I considered myself in luck to find this one so low.

Birds, especially Warblers were plentiful and quite a few migrants were still about, especially Black-poll and Bay-breasted Warblers. The next day was cloudy and threatening and the woods were rather wet from rains the night before. I went to a different locality this day going up the Tionesta Creek on the narrow gauge that hauls logs from the big woods around its waters. My objective was a piece of timber this side of the main track. There was much hemlock in the track and considerable underbrush. In many places large patches of low thick hemlock brush. Along the creek itself is quite a swamp. I intend to look it over a little but the day was too cloudy, and damp to wallow around in the cold water so I stayed out. I heard Northern Water Thrushes singing, also saw two Black Mallards fly-

ing low down but postponed the exploration of the swamp for a sunny day. Birds were singing everywhere so I went along between the narrow gauge and the swamp for some distance where low hemlock was plentiful. I found three Magnolia Warblers' nests but nothing unusual about them as I could hear Blackburnians singing. Up the hill farther I crossed the narrow gauge. I looked along the tracks for Juncos and found a Hermit Thrush at home on three eggs among the ferns. There is a water tank in this woods and the water is piped from a large spring up the side hill. I went to the spring for a drink and sat down awhile when my attention was attracted by the actions of a pair of Brown Creepers. I watched them and soon located the nest as they were feeding young. The nest was only eight feet from the ground in a very large birch tree. This birch tree has loose bark curled into rolls and inside one of these rolls the Creepers had gone to housekeeping. The nest contained large young, but I couldn't tell how many without taking a chance on breaking the piece off. I intended to go back after the young had gone and get the nest, but never did. Creepers annually nest in the swamp under the bark of old dead hemlock stubs but whether they still do I couldn't say as I haven't been in the swamp in nesting time for several years.

There was a great many clumps of low hemlocks and I fairly combed these with the result that I found two nests of Black-throated Blue Warblers. One contained two eggs and the other was just finished and both were pretty structures, being composed of much fine yellow and whitish strips of dead wood. Also found a Magnolia Warbler on a low nest containing three eggs. Coming to considerable second

growth hemlock I looked all about for a possible Blackburnian nest. I finally saw a nest saddled on a limb and went up but the owner was a female. Black-throated Green. This nest was about 25 feet up and eight feet out on a large limb. It held four eggs. While up in this tree I noticed a Tanager's nest in a hemlock to one side. By climbing up above I could see eggs but couldn't tell how many without disturbing it as it was out on a high limb.

My next find was a Magnolia fully 40 feet up in a hemlock. I couldn't tell what it was from the grounds so climbed up, but of course didn't bother it after making sure of the owner. In an extensive patch of low hemlock brush I found another Black-throated Blue's nest holding two eggs. A Tanager's nest was low in a hemlock and contained one egg and was followed by two more Magnolias. One 15 feet up and the other eight feet up both contained four eggs.

This was followed by another Black-throated Blues nest all finished and ready for eggs, and I wound up by finding still another Magnolia's in the top of a small hemlock.

This made 13 nests in this piece of woods including four Black-throated Blues which is as many of the Blues as I could find in a whole season if I tried hard. Although I didn't find much that I wanted my collection was richer by three good sets and I had the pleasure of finding and examining a few fine Warblers' nests beside seeing many birds and a few mammals.

R. B. Simpson.

COPY! COPY!! COPY!!!

We are short of copy. Get busy.

—Editor.



Nest and Eggs of the Turkey Buzzard.

—Photo by G. E. Maxon



Southern Meadow Lark

—Photo by H. E. Wheeler.



## THE MOURNING DOVE

From the budding trees of early spring comes the first familiar voice of the Mourning Dove. It is among the first birds to mate and nest build and is a great favorite with those who are acquainted with its gentle and confiding habits.

In Nelson County, Kentucky, the Dove is a permanent resident. At times in the winter it is scarce, and often it cannot be found for several weeks. The wintering birds usually resort to the corn stubble fields where an abundant supply of scattered corn and weed seeds are to be found. In severe winters they are noticed about barn lots and hog-feeding places. They are frequently found frozen to death in the severe cold weather like as we had in the winter of 1917 and 1918.

As spring comes on the Doves are usually found ly in pairs or singly. Nearly all of the nests I have found were in red cedar trees usually about six to ten feet from the ground. Occasionally nests are found in orchards trees but they seem to prefer the scattered cedars at the edge of Woodland as nesting sites. Evidently eggs are often laid in March. I have been told of eggs found in that month but have as yet found none, but I feel sure that they occasionally lay in that month. On April 14th I flushed a Dove from a nest containing the usual two young birds, about five to six days old. Evidently these eggs were laid in March. Butler in "Birds of India," states, eggs are often found in early April, but gives no March record. He also states that they occasionally nest on the ground in that state. I have never known of a nest of that kind to be found here.

The Dove is not only an early breeder but also nests well into the summer. On August 12th, 1916, I found a nest containing two eggs. One

of the eggs hatched between the 19th and 23rd of the month. The young bird left the nest on the 3rd. It flew straight to the top of a sycamore tree at a distance of about twenty yards. The addled egg remained in the nest for several weeks after the young bird flew. Why the youngster did not shove it out is a mystery, for as all who have seen the Dove nest know that is a mere flat form of twigs.

The following day a single egg of this species was found in the old nest, but it disappeared about a week later. As is a well known fact often feigns lameness, or a broken wing as it leaves the nest. I remember finding a nest in 1916 that was placed in a cedar tree in a fence corner. The nest was on a horizontal limb and almost two feet above the top of the fence. As I approached the nest the Dove flew off in a downward course, striking the wire fence with a bang, fluttered to the ground, flopping through the bushes and finally disappeared. A minute later it was seen flopping and fluttering near the top of the tall tree some twenty yards away. Now I really believe it was the purpose of the Dove to strike the fence as it left the nest. Perhaps by accident it had learned that by striking the wires of the fence it made a considerable noise, and had used this means of attracting my attention to its pretended lameness. Of course this is only a theory of mine and it may be entirely wrong, but I will always believe that the Dove intended colliding with the fence.

When the wheat ripens the Doves are often noticed about the fields and eat grain, but the damage is small. Some farmers claim that they often pull up corn as it sprouts. They are often seen feeding or taking a sun bath along the dusty roads in summer.

The open season on Doves in Kentucky extends from September 1st to October 15th, a period of six weeks.



At this time the birds are found in flocks of many individuals scattered over the fields. Wheat stubble fields are the favorite resorts at this time, and it is here that the Dove hunters seek the birds. Within recent years I have known of more than a hundred birds killed in one afternoon by a small party of hunters in two or three adjoining stubble fields. Still they seem to be holding their own number pretty well and it may be well that they do not become too abundant for being almost strictly a vegetarian. Great numbers of them could do considerable damage, but by no means should the economic position it holds as a weed seed destroyer be overlooked.

Ben J. Blincoe,  
Bardstown, Ky.

#### LOCAL BIRD NAMES

The article by Fred J. Pierce dealing with local bird names in THE OOLOGIST, Vol. XXXVI, No. 8, Aug. 1920, is very interesting, and I wish to add my quota to this interesting subject.

During several seasons spent among the islands off the coast of the Virginia peninsula, I have learned that the Black Skimmer is called Flood Gull, Shearwater or Cutwater; all Terns are called Strikers, but the larger ones—Caspian and Royal—are Gannet Strikers. Black-head or Black headed Gull is the name given to the Laughing Gull and the Oystercatcher is known as the Sea Crow. The Flicker is called the Yellow Winker; the Boat-tailed Grackle is the Jack-daw, and the Crested Flycatcher is often called Clayton. The Clapper Bail is known as Mud Hen or Sage Hen, the Piping Plover is the Pee-Bo Bird and among the older men, the Wilson's Plover is known as the Stuttering Bird. Green Herons are Scouts, Night

Hérons are Wops and Great Blue Herons are Crankys or Cranes. The Brown Thrasher is locally known as the Rusty Mocker. The Scoters are Coots, while the Scaups are Broad Bills and all small Sandpipers are Pennywinkles or Pennies. The Turnstone is often called Calico-back or Maggot Eater.

I am sure both Mr. Pierce and myself would be glad to see other lists of this nature from time to time in the columns of THE OOLOGIST.

B. R. Bales, M.D.  
Circleville, Ohio.

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R. M. BARNES.

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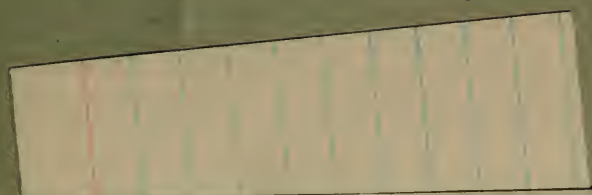
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